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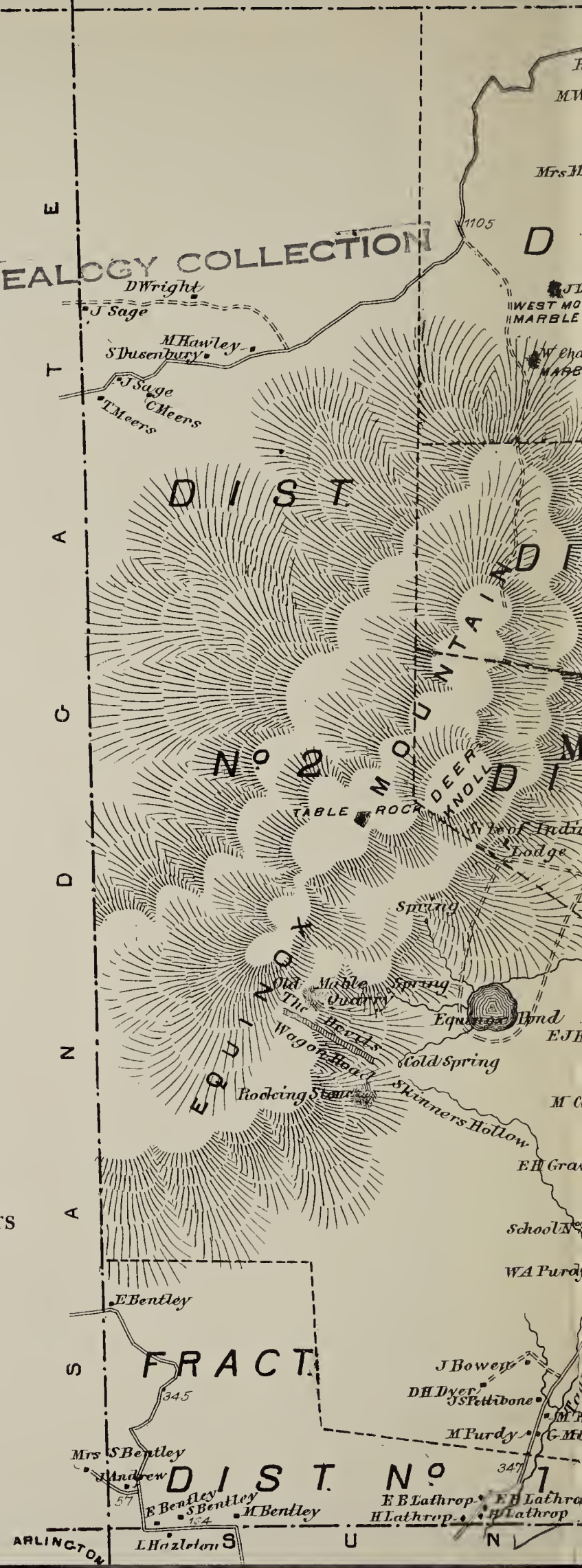
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MAP OF  
MANCHESTER

from *Atlas of Bennington*  
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1869











MANCHESTER  
VERMONT



# MANCHESTER VERMONT

*A Pleasant Land Among the Mountains*

EDWIN L. BIGELOW  
AND  
NANCY H. OTIS



PUBLISHED BY  
THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER  
1961



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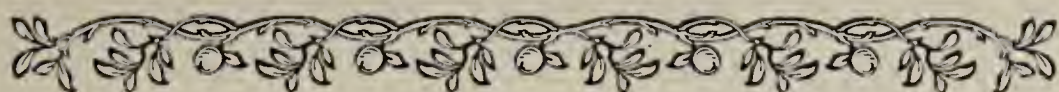
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## Table of Contents

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Preface                           | ix  |
| Introduction                      | xi  |
| I Location and Physical Features  | 1   |
| II Town Government                | 4   |
| III Manchester and the Revolution | 13  |
| IV Roads, Bridges, and Highways   | 17  |
| V "A Loose Town . . ."            | 25  |
| VI Finances                       | 33  |
| VII Churches in Manchester        | 38  |
| VIII Manchester Cemeteries        | 63  |
| IX Education                      | 67  |
| X Transportation                  | 88  |
| XI Post Offices and Postmasters   | 100 |

|        |  |     |
|--------|--|-----|
| xii    | Manchester's Utilities                               | 103 |
| xiii   | Town Welfare   | 114 |
| xiv    | Manchester in Later Wars                             | 119 |
| xv     | Manchester Industries                                | 145 |
| xvi    | Banks  | 157 |
| xvii   | Manchester Merchants                                 | 160 |
| xviii  | Pill Alley   | 165 |
| xix    | "Devoted to Foreign and Domestic Intelligence . . ." | 173 |
| xx     | Libraries  | 181 |
| xxi    | Recreational Activities                              | 185 |
| xxii   | Manchester-In-The-Mountains                          | 198 |
| xxiii  | Manchester—A Golf Mecca                              | 214 |
| xxiv   | Winter Business—White Gold                           | 221 |
| xxv    | Cultural, Fraternal, and Social Organizations        | 232 |
| xxvi   | The Manchester Band                                  | 251 |
| xxvii  | "An Air of Rich and Cultured Living . . ."           | 257 |
| xxviii | Some Prominent Men and Women of Manchester           | 270 |
|        | Appendix   | 293 |
|        | Index  | 307 |



## List of Illustrations

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| A pleasant land among the mountains                  | <i>opposite v</i> |
| The elm at the crossroads                            | xv                |
| View in Manchester, 1872                             | 22                |
| "Marble Bridge" on the Barnumville Road              | 23                |
| Iron bridge at Manchester Center                     | 23                |
| Marble bridge at Manchester Center                   | 23                |
| Leonard Sargeant, Lieutenant-Governor of Vermont     | 30                |
| Baptist church, Manchester Center                    | 31                |
| St. John's Episcopal chapel                          | 42                |
| First Congregational church, Manchester Village      | 42                |
| Zion Episcopal church, Manchester Center             | 42                |
| St. Paul's Roman Catholic church, Manchester Village | 42                |
| Methodist church, Manchester Center, before 1912     | 43                |
| Adams Hall, Manchester Center                        | 43                |
| Manchester Elementary School                         | 43                |
| Burr and Burton Seminary                             | 43                |
| The Rev. Dr. Joseph D. Wickham                       | 82                |
| The Manchester, Dorset, and Granville Railroad       | 83                |
| The Village green in 1861                            | 83                |
| Company c, Color Company, 14th Regiment              | 98                |
| Rich Lumber Company railway                          | 99                |
| Rich Lumber Company mill                             | 99                |



|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Rich Lumber Company yard                             | 154 |
| Lyman Way's marble mill                              | 154 |
| Norcross-West marble mill and yard                   | 154 |
| Iron mine on Lye Brook                               | 154 |
| Manchester Hosiery Mills, Factory Point              | 155 |
| Estabrook's Opera House, Factory Point               | 155 |
| James W. Marsh, M.D.                                 | 155 |
| Claude M. Campbell, M.D.                             | 155 |
| Edmond L. Wyman, M.D.                                | 155 |
| The Mark Skinner Library                             | 186 |
| The Manchester Fair, circa 1880                      | 186 |
| "Hildene," residence of the Hon. Robert Todd Lincoln | 186 |
| Vanderlip's Hotel, Manchester Village, circa 1850    | 186 |
| Equinox House  | 186 |
| "Tip-Top House" on Mount Equinox                     | 187 |
| First clubhouse of the Ekwanok Country Club          | 187 |
| Present clubhouse of the Ekwanok Country Club        | 187 |
| The first Manchester Band, 1861                      | 187 |
| Manchester Depot Drum Corps, circa 1890              | 187 |
| Southern Vermont Art Center                          | 258 |
| Nathaniel Canfield                                   | 258 |
| Walter Hard  | 259 |
| Sarah Norcliffe Cleghorn                             | 259 |
| Albert Smith   | 259 |
| Ahiman L. Miner                                      | 274 |
| Susan Miner  | 274 |
| Loveland Munson                                      | 274 |
| Mary Campbell Munson                                 | 274 |
| Frank C. Archibald                                   | 275 |
| Franklin H. Orvis                                    | 275 |
| Charles F. Orvis                                     | 275 |
| Icy Palmer   | 275 |



## Preface

RESEARCH for this volume began in December 1959. It has required untold time, telephone calls, and trips to the library, to the town clerk's office, and to many Manchester homes. The writing was begun in the late spring of 1960, working toward a tentative deadline late in the year. This has indeed been a short space of time in which to cover 200 years of Manchester life. Details, too, were sometimes lacking—we have had to rely on available records and memories. So the story will not be perfect, but we hope enough will be told to make it interesting.

Manchester's role as a resort community has made it host to numbers of part-time residents, which in turn has sometimes raised a problem as to their importance as makers of its history. But we have tried to write with good judgment and intent. If the result is something different, we offer regrets.

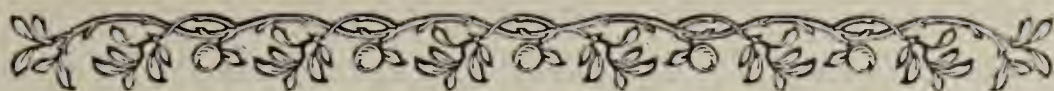
The interest in this history shown by so many who love Manchester is hereby gratefully acknowledged. We cannot name them all. However, the book could not have been written without the aid and co-operation of the Librarian of the Mark Skinner Library, Anna B. Buck, and her assistant, Rachel Limric; Town Clerk Helen B. Bigelow and her successor, Clara May Hemenway; and advisors on the Selectmen's Historical Committee, Walter Hard and John Whipple. Mr. Whipple is especially thanked for his timely gift to the Manchester Historical Society of his brother's Manchesteriana, The Harris C. Whipple Collection. It has proved invaluable.

Cornelius Whalen has been frequently called upon to corrobo-

rate information. Deep gratitude goes to Harold Taylor of Manchester Depot for sustained interest and co-operation in the project. We also appreciate the aid of those who typed to speed production, Helen B. Bigelow and Dorothy W. Tupper.

Among others to whom we are also indebted are: Dr. Richard C. Overton; Margaret S. Hard; Leon Wiley; Alice Richardson; Nahum Kamber; Helen Pearson; Daniel Wideawake; Major-General (USA Ret.) John Watt Page; The Rev. Donald C. Kelly; Stanley B. Ineson; Fred Pabst; The Rev. Robert Clayton; Harold Giddings, Jr.; G. Stewart Bennett; Elmer Harwood; The Rev. Edgar Johnson; Paul H. Bullock; G. Murray Campbell; Robert Anderson; Mr. and Mrs. Niles Carlson; Mary Malone; Earl Van Buskirk; James B. Campbell; Mr. and Mrs. Celon Harwood; Harry Adams; Grace W. W. Reed; Henry B. Robinson; Harry Mercier. Photographs used are through the courtesy of the Mark Skinner Library, The Whipple Collection, Helen B. Bigelow, Walter Hard, Clara May Hemenway, Effie and Eva Van Buskirk, Reid Lefevre, and the *Manchester Journal*.





## Introduction

**M**ANCHESTER'S history, somewhat different from that of many towns, has had two distinct phases. One is the usual growth of any community from a wilderness settlement to a modern community of the 1960s. This is represented through evolution in the five fields common to all communities—economic, political, educational, religious, and social. It is the purpose of this history to follow Manchester's development along these lines.

The other phase is Manchester's influence and activity in events concerning a much larger area than that of the township—the part its citizens played in the Revolutionary War; the jurisdictional dispute with New York and New Hampshire concerning land titles; participation that led to the creation of Vermont as an independent republic; and being three times host to its legislature. Manchester was probably more actively involved in these matters than available records indicate.

The community developed its natural resources, making them the basis of modest industries which flourished for a time until the changing economic environment of the country made some small-town industries obsolete. The exhaustion of timber resources of virgin forests led to the decline of extensive manufacturing enterprises in the lumber and woodworking field.

For a while the pattern of agriculture was such that a woolen mill, tannery, and cheese and butter factories could exist on local supplies of wool, hides, and milk. This was succeeded by the fluid

milk market, which finally culminated in the establishment of a co-operative milk plant to serve the town and its surrounding area.

In the early days cash was scarce. Even taxes were paid in corn, wheat, oats, beef, pork, butter, cheese, and wool at specified values for each. Taxes were also worked out on highways until 1883. Then money seems to have been more plentiful. By 1820 property evaluations were put on a dollars and cents basis instead of the terms of English currency previously used.

In the educational field evolution was from small autonomous school districts with one-room schools. Manchester once had sixteen. They were supported by district grand list taxes, taxes of one cent a day from parents for pupil attendance, and from income from public school lands. Population changes led to the consolidation of the small districts, which became one town school district in 1893. Eventually consolidations culminated in one central elementary school for the whole town in 1950.

The political field dealt mainly with the processes of government. Democracy was a powerful factor and the number of officers was once larger than now. Evolution in this field moved steadily toward more centralization of authority, culminating in the adoption of the town manager system in 1940.

The separate highway districts of early days were each under the charge of one road commissioner. The need for a sealer of leather or of weights and measures, or a brander of horses vanished with the changing times. In the matter of finance, citizens now vote upon total itemized budgets, while taxes have risen from one cent to over \$10 upon the grand list.

Though in the early days Manchester was not noted for any great spirit of godliness, provision for religious observance was one of the first items in town affairs. A two-acre meeting house "lott" was laid out when the town was surveyed in 1764. It is located in the Village where the present Congregational church and Court House stand. A meeting house was built there about 1784. Other churches were built until the town eventually had those now in use. Methodist and Campbellite denominations were dissolved some years ago.

The town grew up socially as a goodly number of clubs, development associations, service groups, and fraternal organizations evolved.

All Manchester's growth took place under the leadership and efforts of many individuals who contributed to community development. For most, a paragraph will suffice. Martin Powel and Gideon Ormsby are exceptions. Powel was one of the most outstanding men of the early community, yet his name is rarely preserved except in his signature inscribed on a multitude of public documents during his service as clerk of the Proprietors and town clerk.

This, in brief, is the story of Manchester, a township granted by Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire, to a group of land speculators in 1761 and bought from them by another group of speculators in Amenia, New York, who became the town's Proprietors. They proceeded to settle Manchester and trade its acres for their enrichment. About 1850 the community's seemingly one inexhaustible resource, its scenic charm and geographical location, was recognized for its potential value. The town entered what may be its soundest and most lasting status, that which it now advertises as a four-season recreation and retirement community.





THE ELM AT THE CROSSROADS



## THE ELM AT THE CROSSROADS

. . . A tree like the elm at the crossroads  
Has seen too much of life  
To be just timber or firewood.

. . . . .  
Count the rings. A hundred and eight.  
It could tell you a lot of history.  
It was young when Factory Point was beginning.

There was a tannery along the river  
With piles of bark in the yard.  
There was a woolen mill with its whirling looms,  
And a dozen other mills along the stream.  
It was really Factory Point.

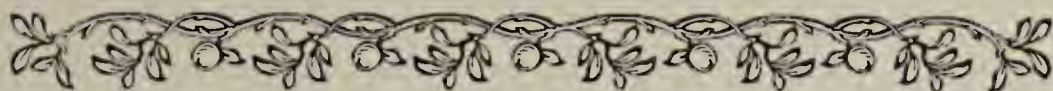
Think of all the people who have passed that tree!  
Think of the slow-plodding oxen with loads of goods;  
Heavy creaking wagons with blocks of marble  
From the quarries on Dorset Mountain;  
Lines of soldiers going to save the Union;  
Processions in somber black;  
Gay parades with bands and flying banners;  
Ladies walking with parasols held over quaint bonnets;  
Men with high hats and tailed coats;  
Statesmen, scholars, warriors, artists—  
All have passed under its spreading branches.

There it lies. Just so many cords of firewood.  
Of course it had to go.  
It's a martyr to what we hope is progress.  
Our rushing life cannot be stopped by a tree.

A hundred and eight years  
To grow some firewood.

Walter Hard  
*A Mountain Township*





## CHAPTER I

# Location and Physical Features

**A**TOWN'S physical features are important because much of its history, especially its economic development, depends upon its physical environment and topography.

Manchester is located in northern Bennington County in the Vermont Valley between the Green Mountains on the east and the Taconic Mountains on the west. Mount Equinox, highest of the Taconics, 3,816 feet, makes a pleasing backdrop for that section of the town known as Manchester Village as it rises a little over 3,000 feet above the community. Nearly all of Equinox lies within Manchester.

On the east the township includes several miles of the Green Mountain range rising to an altitude of 3,100 feet above sea level and some 2,400 feet above the deeper portion of the Valley. Altitudes vary from 690 feet at the railroad station and 750 feet at Manchester Center to 899 feet at the Court House in Manchester Village.

The town is bounded by Winhall on the east, Sandgate on the west, Dorset on the north, and Sunderland on the south. Hard-surfaced roads connect Manchester with all four of these neighboring communities, though not directly with Sandgate.

Manchester is a little larger than the traditional six-miles-square dimensions of Vermont towns and contains 42.67 square miles. Almost a quarter of this area is above 2,000 feet in altitude, while a little less than half is below a thousand feet above the sea. This is worth noting, for in any area altitudes are an important factor in climate and precipitation.

The Manchester area lies in the Hudson River drainage basin and is drained by the Battenkill rising in East Dorset and its tributaries—the West Branch coming from the west Dorset area passing through Manchester Center; Bromley Brook, Bourn Brook, and Lye Brook rising on the Green Mountains; Munson Brook and Tanner Brook coming from the Equinox side of the Valley.

The town contains three bodies of water—Equinox Pond lying at the base of Equinox Mountain, Bullhead Pond near the East Dorset line, and the recently constructed Dufresne Pond. Aside from streams and ponds, the town possesses another natural resource of water in a fairly bountiful supply of springs. Drilled wells in the higher sections of the Valley seem to strike adequate water supplies at depths ranging from 120 to 160 feet. In lower sections of the Valley water is found at about 50 to 100 feet.

Manchester's streams provided the water power necessary for establishing various mills and small industries in the early years. Water power was the important factor that led to the growth and naming of Factory Point, as Manchester Center was known. In later years other forms of power came into use and now the power of streams goes unused and would be inadequate for the demands of modern industry.

As manufacturing dependent upon water power declined, trade increased as an economic factor. Here, too, topography has influenced the construction of roads, making possible the location of Manchester Center at the crossroads of several important highways. These connect it with communities to the east, south, and north. This has been an important factor in making the Center the business center of the town. In fact, the highway pattern has tended to make the town as a whole a trading center for a considerable area beyond its boundaries.

Manchester's highland areas, as well as adjoining ones, have been the raw materials source for considerable lumber industry in the past. They still support enterprises in that industry. The area's scenic charm with a topography suitable for excellent golf courses has been responsible for the growth of the town's hotel and summer business. This has been augmented in recent years by the growing ski industry, also dependent upon a topography that provides snow along with suitable slopes upon which to use it. There was a time

when another natural resource, marble, was of considerable importance economically, though most of the stone itself came from quarries in neighboring Dorset.

Manchester has always been composed of several small communities with the Village, Factory Point, Manchester Depot, and Barnumville as the principal entities. There has also been Robertsville, Rootville, Marbleville, Beartown, Purdyville, Hicksville, and Richville.

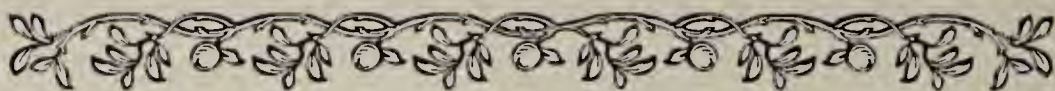
Robertsville was a well-populated section surrounding what is known as "The Old Homestead," home of General Martin Roberts, in the north part of town. Situated on the old Boston to Saratoga road, it was principally noted as a stagecoach stop. Marbleville was a very busy community of homes and marble mills along the banks of Glebe Brook on what is now Way's Lane. This was probably the location of several Manchester mills sawing and preparing Dorset marble for the market in 1855.<sup>1</sup> By 1889 all that remained were tumble-down mills and the giant water wheels that produced the power.

Hicksville, located towards East Manchester, and Purdyville, on the hill approaching the south part of the Village, were named for the many families named Hicks and Purdy living in those sections. Richville, at the foot of the Green Mountains on the east side of the Battenkill, was the section originally developed in the early 1900s by the Rich Lumber Company. It still has quite a large population.

Remote Rootville was located up on the mountains toward Bourn Pond. In the gap between Mount Equinox and Bear Mountain is Beartown Notch, once the site of a small community which used the now nearly impassable road between Sandgate and Manchester.

1. Zephine Humphrey, *Story of Dorset* (Rutland, 1924), p. 166.





## CHAPTER II

# Town Government

THE Proprietors who surveyed and established Manchester were a somewhat different group than the Grantees to whom Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire chartered the area in 1761. How the town received its name is not on record. Several other communities in the United States with the same name are said to have received it after Manchester in England, but the charter simply designates the town as Manchester.

The first meeting of the Proprietors seems to have been February 14, 1764 at Amenia (Nine Partners), New York. After three adjournments it was voted March 23, 1764 that a Proprietor not on hand by three o'clock should pay for a bowl of punch. These early meetings were concerned with such matters as the drawing of lots, providing for surveys, collecting assessments to pay for surveying expenses, etc. A collector garnered the money and a treasurer cared for the funds collected. A \$2 assessment was levied on each Proprietor's right.

Martin Powel, Gideon Ormsby, Timothy Mead, and Jeremiah French are Proprietors' names appearing frequently in town meeting records. These influential men served the community as diligently as they did the Proprietors.

After the Manchester Proprietors organized, a surveying committee from Amenia headed by Daniel Shippard was directed to survey for each Proprietor 100 acres of the best land in the town, equal in quality and quantity. The Survey Bill, or public notice, was signed by Shippard June 10, 1764 and he was paid twelve shil-

lings York money for thus laying out Manchester. Martin Powel, Thomas French, and Daniel Beardsley were charged with ascertaining the town boundaries.

It appears from the settlement and allowance of the surveying committee accounts that twenty-two days were spent surveying seventy 100-acre lots. Sixty-four lots were for that number of original Grantees; two rights belonged to the Governor for granting the charter; one right went to the first settled minister, who could sell it immediately if he wished; one right belonged to the Church of England and was called the "glebe"; one went to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a missionary society in England; and one was for the use of the schools.

These lots were called "old hundreds" and they were numbered. Each Proprietor drew for his lot, or "right" as they were sometimes called. At subsequent lot drawings called "Divisions," four glebe lots and two school lots were set aside. The Proprietors planned a two-acre lot for a "meeting house plott." Shippard's Survey Bill indicated its location:

Begining at the south-west corner of the Town thence running to the middle of the town thence West 10 degrees North 17 chains to the meeting house plott that lys ten chains long (660 ft.) and 2 wide (132 ft.). Two acres for the Lott.

The present Congregational church and Court House stand on that lot which extended some distance north and south of what is now Union Street. A schoolhouse once stood between the church and the Court House and apparently horsesheds and various other buildings now gone occupied the area, as well as an early cemetery.<sup>1</sup>

It was not until September 22, 1802 that the Proprietors voted to lay out the remaining undivided land.

Twenty-four Proprietors at a meeting in Amenia December 11, 1764 voted to lay out one or more highways northerly and southerly in Manchester. A meeting in 1771 voted that Samuel Rose, William Marsh, and John Roberts be a committee to lay out all the roads through the town. A similar committee was elected at other meetings until the need for new roads passed.

1. Judge J. S. Pettibone, "Papers," unpublished.

Records of the first town meetings held in Manchester from 1766 to 1771 are somewhat fragmentary because of torn pages, but the records from 1771 are in good condition and items of business can be easily followed. Warnings for town meetings do not appear to have been recorded until March 12, 1776, though mention is generally made that such meetings were duly warned.

A Proprietors' meeting in Amenia February 4, 1766 voted to hold the annual meeting for the election of town officers in Manchester. The town of Manchester was organized the second Tuesday of March 1766, when Stephen Mead was chosen clerk; Benjamin Johns, moderator; and Benjamin Purdy, treasurer. For the next five years the record is so mutilated that there is some uncertainty as to town officers. At one meeting Jeremiah French was elected clerk and again in 1771 and 1772. From that date the record is clear.

The first meeting of the Proprietors held in Manchester was in April 1773, all previous ones having been held in Amenia. Afterward, both the Proprietors' meetings and town meetings were held in Manchester, the former concerned with lot drawings and surveys and the latter with governmental public business.

Town meetings were held at various dwelling houses until the meeting house was built on the meeting house lot. Many were held at "Martin Powel's house," a tavern he kept for William Marsh on a site near the present south wing of the Equinox House. Powel was town clerk for twenty-one years beginning in 1773.

Due to circumstance, Manchester citizens had other weighty matters to ponder in addition to problems of local government. New Hampshire's authority in colonial land claims was strongly doubted as Governor Wentworth was selling township grants to acquire funds for his accustomed style of expensive living. It is entirely possible that New York had some legal claim to the same territory. Thus the early settlers, having acquired their land under New Hampshire title, found themselves caught in a dispute between two colonial claims of jurisdiction.

A meeting April 18, 1771 appointed a committee to see about securing land under the New Hampshire Grants, and then the annual meeting of 1773 voted "not to pursue the getting of jurisdiction back to New Hampshire at present." A meeting November 15, 1774 voted to petition New York for confirmation of privileges of



the Grants. At a town meeting held at Powel's it was voted that Powel, Joseph Lockwood, Gideon Ormsby, and Daniel Beardsley be a committee to act with others upon the New Hampshire Grants with respect to the "title of our land."

Thus the dispute raged, the settlers seeking security from first one side and then the other. The argument grew in intensity until New York authorities attempted to evict settlers who held land under the New Hampshire title. The intruding New Yorkers had to be discouraged by threats of violence.

On top of these troubles came the Revolutionary War between the Colonies and Great Britain. Manchester, by virtue of its geographical location, could hardly help becoming actively involved in the hostilities. This further complicated the orderly development of local government. The town had Committees of Safety to act with similar committees from other towns. In 1777 Martin Powel, Gideon Ormsby, Thomas Bull, Stephen Washburn, and Elisha Tracy constituted the group for the year with different members elected the following year.

Upon the heels of the Revolution came the War of 1812, an upheaval that did not affect Manchester quite so much. However, a town meeting July 6, 1812 voted to supply a magazine of the town with ammunition and to equip militia for the defense of the country by a tax of one and a half cents on the dollar. A town meeting on March 9, 1813 voted to sell military equipment bought the previous year "except such as the law requires be furnished poor persons." Apparently supplies other than weapons and ammunition had been purchased for the magazine.

Transactions at town meetings were largely concerned with the election of citizens to town offices or committees, a number of which no longer exist. Either the need for them has passed or they have been absorbed into other offices.

The posts of selectmen, moderator, clerk, treasurer, and constable have a familiar sound, while fence viewers and poundkeepers were more important in early times than today. The latter are presently appointed by the Selectmen.

The Legislature of 1779 required that each town have a brand for horses. The inhabitants were required to choose a suitable person to be a brander of horses and record the brandings. Manchester

was assigned the letter "M" and Martin Powel was elected brander for a number of years.

We do not have a sealer of leather or of weights and measures to-day, but Powel was elected to the former office several years and he and Gideon Ormsby were among several to hold the latter office. Another post unnecessary now is that of town surveyor to which Samuel French was elected six years.

Other officers unfamiliar today were tythingmen and haywards. Three tythingmen were elected in 1787 and as many as four in some years until 1840, the last year they were elected. Eight haywards were elected in 1797 and eleven in 1801 and 1802.

Cornelius Whalen of East Dorset is authority for the following information regarding the duties of tythingmen and haywards. One of the features of local commerce at least until the 1840s was the marketing of cattle in droves on the highways. Animals were likely to stray into adjacent fields causing damage to growing hay crops. It was the duty of haywards to round up such strays and deliver them to the public pound, where the owners might secure them upon payment of damages.

Proper observance of the Sabbath in early days reached beyond the bounds of the church. Tythingmen were elected by the town meeting as public officers whose duty it was to see that citizens abstained from labor on the Sabbath and attended church services. They could be called into church to keep a watchful eye on the congregation and arouse any who drowsed.

One official whose status goes back to English government is the constable, who has usually been the law officer in smaller towns and frequently the tax collector. Regularly elected constables have wider jurisdiction than police officers whose authority is limited to the town. The first constable may serve writs and has charge of primary and general elections.

Samuel Soper seems to have been Manchester's earliest constable, elected at the town meeting of 1776. In succeeding years, sometimes one constable was elected and sometimes two. Various town meetings from 1841 to 1849 voted to extend the jurisdiction of the first constable throughout the county as provided by state law. In 1875 it was voted that both first and second constables should have their jurisdiction extended throughout the state. This definition of authority no longer has to be voted at town meeting.



In October 1875 the Selectmen found it necessary to appoint one or more special constables "for the preservation of peace, good order, and to provide security of life and property." They appointed Lewis Lugene. Varying numbers of special constables were appointed in succeeding years until 1922 when one was elected and seventeen specials were appointed.

A police officer was appointed for the town October 16, 1924 and three the following year. The authority of these officers is limited to the town and their work is mainly concerned with traffic problems. In connection with the Civil Defense program as many as fifty-five special police have been appointed, who would serve only in times of emergency.

It early became the custom to elect a committee to settle with the Selectmen concerning the accounts of town officers. This was a forerunner of the auditors who were first mentioned in 1842.

Listers were first mentioned April 9, 1787, when Martin Powel and Gideon Ormsby were elected. Their duties were much the same as now, but state law permitted them to assess *concealed* property fourfold as a means of discouraging those who tried to avoid taxes. One half of this amount was retained by the listers and the other half by the town. The town meeting of 1813 finally succeeded in voting to pay listers from the treasury and the listers' twofold was paid into the treasury.

A committee was chosen to fix prices of agricultural produce, a function no longer within the jurisdiction of town meetings. One such report was made December 11, 1787. A town meeting also held that year voted that the twopenny tax previously voted be paid in grain at various valuations. Apparently cash was too sparsely distributed to be available for tax payments. Government price fixing for commodities, therefore, is nothing new.

Town meetings also elected petit and grand jurors "for the box" until 1919, when the Legislature provided for their being drawn by the assistant judges. The Legislature of 1921 voted that town clerks provide the county clerk with lists of persons to be drawn.

Most of the time the office of the town clerk has been in Manchester Village at various locations. It was, however, at Manchester Center a short time when John Roberts was clerk. Much of the data concerning the history of the town lies in the Land Records and minutes of town meetings. Some clerks have been fine penmen,

while the script of others is not easy reading. Since 1952 the records of the town have been typed and preserved in loose-leaf record books.

One of the briefest records concerns a meeting held June 1, 1844, when William Sperry was town clerk:

John Pettibone chosen moderator.

James Hicox chosen second constable.

Voted that James Hicox be excused from serving as second constable.

Voted not to have any second constable.

After a great deal of talk and doing nothing voted that this meeting be dissolved.

Town clerks following Jeremiah French in 1772 have been:

Martin Powel 1773-1796  
 Joseph Burr 1796-1798  
 Joshua French 1798-1800  
 Joel Pratt 1800-1825  
 Chester Clark 1825-1828  
 M. S. Shepherd 1828-1832  
 Lyman Harrington 1832-1835  
 R. H. Blackmer 1835-1836  
 William Black 1836-1842  
 William Sperry 1842-1845  
 Samuel Millet 1845-1846  
 John Cooke 1846-1850  
 Charles Harris 1850-1853  
 John Roberts 1853-1866  
 Loveland Munson 1866-1873  
 D. K. Simonds 1873-1908  
 C. A. Shattuck 1908-1918  
 Hiram Eggleston finished 1918  
 Alice E. Bennett 1919-1952  
 Helen B. Bigelow 1952-1960  
 Clara M. Hemenway 1960-

A somewhat drastic change was made in Manchester's government when the 1941 town meeting voted to hire a town manager as specified in the statutes. To date the town has had five managers:

W. Robinson Martin 1941-1945  
 William A. Griffith 1945-1947

George A. Randall 1947-1954  
Walter J. Leland 1954-1956  
Oakley K. Porter 1956-

The degree of centralization and control of town affairs centered in one office under this system would no doubt shock the citizens of forty years ago, who were used to keeping a tight rein on expenditures and the actions of town officers. However, the change is partly a product of the times. A proposed charter passed by the Legislature of 1957 for adoption by the town within a period of ten years would carry the centralization principle still further, leaving very little direct control of town affairs by the voting citizens.

In addition to the town government, Manchester has two other municipal units, Manchester Village and Fire District No. 1. Fire District No. 1 was laid out in 1877 by the Selectmen in response to a petition from twenty or more residents. It was surveyed by Richard Dean and included school district No. 9, roughly the present Center and Depot areas. Its boundaries are not marked but are recorded in Volume 19 of the Land Records, page 427.

The powers, officers, etc. of fire districts are defined in Sections 2601-2603 of Title 20 of the Annotated Statutes. Since the fire department has been taken over by the town, the chief business of this fire district is confined to sidewalk care and the provision of street lights. Its tax base is a grand list of \$10,131.86 in 1960 and a tax rate of sixty cents on a dollar of the grand list.

Fire District No. 2 was laid out by the Selectmen July 5, 1878 and legalized by Act No. 175 of the 1880 session of the Legislature. Its boundaries are defined in Volume 19, pages 505 and 506 of the Land Records. This district was incorporated as Manchester Village by Act No. 182 of the 1900 Legislature and amended by Act 224 of the 1902 Legislature. These acts define the corporation's powers of government. Its voters are those residents who are legal voters in the town meeting. Its officers are a president, clerk, treasurer, and collector, with four trustees. The annual meeting is the second Monday in July. The grand list in 1960 was \$11,083.55 and the tax rate \$2 on a dollar of the grand list.

Women, finally receiving permission to vote in Vermont, had to first file a request with the Selectmen and pay a poll tax. In 1920

only seventeen women locally availed themselves of the privilege. Among them were Mary Malone and Margaret S. Hard. By fall of that year, women could vote without tax qualifications in the state primary. Mrs. Hard was a pioneer for woman suffrage not only in Vermont, but also in the nation. She marched in the first large suffragette parade in New York City.

In 1944 Manchester, realizing the importance of its valuable written records, voted not more than \$1,000 for the microfilming of town documents for preservation.

In the county judicial system, Manchester is a half-shire town. This is a unique position, as Bennington County is the only Vermont county having *two* seats of justice.

Shaftsbury was first considered as being the most central and suitable location for county buildings, but serious agitation resulted in Bennington as the choice. This so dissatisfied the people of the northern townships that when Bennington County was officially organized in March 1781, Bennington and Manchester were selected as half-shire towns. Provision was made for the erection of county buildings and the holding of court alternately in each place. The June term is held in Manchester while the December term meets in Bennington.

The commissioners who sought a suitable location in Manchester for the court house desired land at Factory Point in the vicinity of the present Baptist church. This was the property of Timothy Mead, who refused to sell. Finally a site was chosen in the Village. Prior to the erection of the building, court was held at the Marsh tavern or at the meeting house. The first court house, complete with a jail, was built some time between 1787 and 1795 with publicly subscribed funds. A small, plain, frame structure, one story high, it has never been removed. Many times remodeled and enlarged, it is now part of the building called the "Equinox Junior."


Larger and more pretentious quarters were soon needed for the Manchester county seat. In 1822 a new brick court house was built, also by public subscription, just north of the old. In 1849 it was repaired and enlarged at county expense.





### CHAPTER III

## Manchester and the Revolution

PEN warfare between the Colonies and England began with the Battle of Lexington April 19, 1775. On May 19, as the Second Continental Congress met at Philadelphia, Ethan Allen with a group of Vermonters known as the Green Mountain Boys captured Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain about seventy-five miles from Manchester. In his speech, *The Early History of Manchester*, Judge Munson stated that Christopher Roberts of Manchester was among the first to enter the fort. Two days later nearby Crown Point was captured.

As the conflict deepened, British strategy in 1777 called for an advance by General Burgoyne up Lake Champlain from Canada to the Hudson where he would meet General Howe coming from Albany. He was also to receive aid from Colonel St. Leger moving along the Mohawk Valley. Fort Ticonderoga was recaptured and the retreating Colonials under Seth Warner suffered a severe defeat in rear guard action at Hubbardton July 6 only some forty miles northwest of Manchester. Warner brought what remained of his command to Manchester, geographical hub of travel routes to the north, south, east, and western areas of the Champlain Valley.

The Council of Safety met at Manchester July 15, 1777, and from it Ira Allen sent an appeal for aid to New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. In response, New Hampshire sent General John Stark with some 1,250 men while Massachusetts sent Berkshire militia and Stockbridge Indians to Bennington.

When the problem of raising money for outfitting troops was



raised at the Council session, Ira Allen proposed a plan for confiscating and selling the property of Tories as a means of acquiring funds. The plan was adopted and Martin Powel was appointed Commissioner of Sequestration to proceed with the plan in the Manchester area. Within thirty days of this decree, two full companies known as "Rangers" were organized and equipped. These, together with troops from other sections of the state, totaled 500 men quartered at Manchester.

Revolutionary payrolls indicate that much of the wartime activity of Manchester men involved sorties to "suppress insurrections"; to search for Tories; and to investigate "alarms to the north." While the list may not be complete, 123 names are recorded on the Soldiers' Monument at Manchester Village as having served in the Revolutionary War. Most of them probably saw service in the Ticonderoga-Bennington area.

Major General Benjamin Lincoln of the Continental Army was sent to Manchester to co-operate with General Schuyler in the operations against Burgoyne. John Stark, the New Hampshire general, marched his troops over the Peru pass to Manchester. Due to a grievance in a delegation of rank, Stark is reported to have made it plain to Lincoln that he and his men would not serve under him or recognize his authority in any way.

Burgoyne, in the meantime advancing from Ticonderoga to Fort Edward, New York, had learned that there were military stores he badly needed at Bennington, Vermont. There was also a possibility that he might secure horses with which to remount some of his German dragoons who were afoot. He had also been told that the inhabitants of the area between him and Bennington were sympathetic to the British cause, which might mean Tory aid.

He first planned to send his troops who were located at Castleton after the Hubbardton action to Manchester, where Warner was located with what remained of his command. After seizing the mountain pass to the east which offered access to eastern New England, the British were to proceed south to Bennington.

Then Burgoyne changed his mind. On August 15, 1777 he instead sent 200 dragoons, 100 Brunswick infantry, 2 cannon, 50 British sharpshooters, with about 300 Canadians, Indians, and Tories to make a direct assault upon Bennington via Cambridge

and the Walloomsac Valley. A heavy rainstorm slowed the march and made organized military operations almost impossible, but eventually the British, after driving back American skirmishers, took a position on a hill some six miles northwest of Bennington in New York state.

Stark was on hand with his New Hampshire men and the Massachusetts militia and Indians had arrived, but Warner's regiment had been left in Manchester to await the arrival of companies out on scout duty. Warner himself was with Stark.

On the morning of August 16 Stark began to deploy his troops so as to be able to attack the British under Colonel Baum from the rear. The actual fighting did not get under way, however, until about 3:00 p.m., when Stark and Warner started the main frontal attack upon the hill.

Each side, having become aware of the need for reinforcement, sent for help. Colonel Baum appealed to Burgoyne, who sent another column of Brunswickers under Colonel Breyman. A courier was sent to Manchester with orders for Warner's regiment to march. The latter arrived too late to take part in the main battle for the hill but did play an important part in the fighting that stopped Breyman's relief column and sent it into retreat. Stark was obliged to stop the fighting because of darkness.

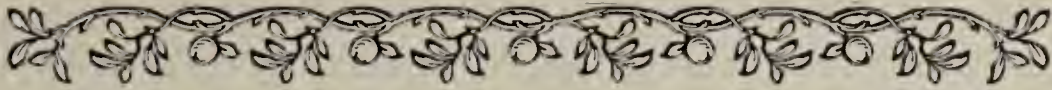
As battles go, Bennington was not much more than a major skirmish. Its importance in the over-all campaign strategy, however, was much greater. Burgoyne could not afford to lose the 800 men who were killed, wounded, or prisoners of the Americans and he badly needed the supplies he failed to get. The days around the middle of August 1777 must have been exciting in Manchester. It is unfortunate that diaries and letters of the time which might give a clearer picture seem to be lacking.

Armed conflict with the British was not the only disturbing factor in Manchester during the war years. There was also a jurisdictional dispute involving New Hampshire, the settlers, and New York as to authority over land titles. Manchester men, Gideon Ormsby and Martin Powel, are recorded as attending the last of the Dorset Conventions held at Cephas Kent's tavern. These meetings laid the groundwork for declarations which made Vermont an independent state at Westminster, January 15, 1777. There were probably Man-

chester representatives present at the other meetings. Powel was among the nine delegates from the west side of the state who attended the January 15 convention at Westminster when it was declared that the New Hampshire Grants were a separate and independent jurisdiction or state by the name of New Connecticut. A later convention held at Windsor changed the name to Vermont.

Though Vermont became an independent state, it had no fixed capital until Montpelier was chosen in 1808. The Legislature met at such places as Rutland, Windsor, Bennington, and Manchester. The first Manchester session was October 14–27, 1779 with Martin Powel and Gideon Ormsby again representing Manchester. The second meeting at Manchester was October 10–24, 1782 with Ormsby and Thomas Bull, town representatives. The last meeting in Manchester was October 9–25, 1788. The Manchester representatives are not known.

Manchester in subsequent wars provided its quota of men and supplies, but never again was it such a prominent center of activity as from 1775 until 1791, when Vermont became the fourteenth state of the Union.



## CHAPTER IV

# Roads, Bridges, and Highways

**A** PROPRIETORS' meeting held at the house of Lieutenant Samuel Smith in Amenia, New York, December 11, 1764 voted to lay out one or more highways northerly and southerly in the township of Manchester. Gideon Ormsby and Jeremiah French were appointed to locate them and beginning April 6, 1768 a series of roads were made.

At a town meeting, March 2, 1772, pathmasters were appointed for the main road through town and for the east road. On March 12, 1776 at a meeting held at Martin Powel's house, pathmasters for six roads were appointed and it was voted that "pathmasters meet together to see if it is proper to clear out the road from Benjamin Purdy's farm to Joseph Baker's where laid out or not."

Eighteen roads were laid out by March 2, 1781 and on November 6 a committee of thirty-three was appointed to meet at Powel's to consider and report on the reservation of lands in the Charter for Public Roads. This committee decided that the town had "a legal right to land referred in the Charter for the purpose of Public Roads or highways." Their opinion must have been based on a sentence in the Charter which, after naming the town, read:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being within our said Province of New Hampshire containing by Admeasurement twenty three thousand and forty acres which tract is to contain six miles square and more; out of which an Allowance is to be made for Highways and unimprovable lands by Rocks, Mountains, and Rivers One Thousand and Forty Acres free.



It is difficult to work out any definite history of Manchester's road system from its early days. An attempt to correlate present roads with those earliest ones would entail a tremendous amount of research and perhaps even prove impossible. Some of the roads then important have been abandoned and while roads were well surveyed, the markers by which they took their course are difficult to locate. For instance, a description dated 1776 reads:

A road beginning at the northwest corner of the glebe running east upon the line till it comes to the school house, thence south 36 degrees until it comes near Josiah Burton's thence bearing a little more eastward till it comes to Peletiah Soper grist mill. . . .

One dated 1782 reads, "Beginning at the center road near widow Rose's house at a heap of stones, thence running north 27 degrees to a heap of stones." Another dated the same year began "at a heap of stones at the south line of Jared Munson's farm between the house and barn."

The first north-south route through town was not far out of line with the present course of U.S. Rte. 7 through Manchester Village. It continued north along the way of the present West Road to connect with the present Dorset West Road and on to Wells. A parallel road was laid out, but the swamp along the east side of the glebe (Munson Flats) was insurmountable with construction methods available in that day. Thus, a road came down from the present West Road a little north and higher on the hill than the present Way's Lane to connect with what is now U.S. Rte. 7 near Gladys Richardson's house to reach Factory Point. The road across the glebe swamp was built in 1812, and the town paid David Brooks \$193.25 for building it.

One of the old-time roads ran from the Valley or River Road below Wilburton Inn over the hills and across both present golf courses and the brook near Munson's Falls to join U.S. Rte. 7 by way of the present Mountain View Terrace road. This was in 1769. Another road came from the west to form a corners near Munson's Falls. Apparently Peletiah Soper's tavern was on the upper road and there were a number of houses and a couple of marble mills in the area.

The road from Factory Point to Dorset formerly went north past



the present Lewis West farm, then onto the "Cross Road" past Richardson's, and out what was "The Lane" (now the access road to the dump) to eventually reach South Dorset. An extension of this road by Richardson's went past the Kenneth Stacy house as now, but then went over the hill west to meet the old Beartown road. Sometime in the 1850s the present "Dugway" was built on land part of which was given by John D. Wait. This did away with some hills on the original road.

The Beartown road did not always start where it does now, from the south corner of Three Maple Drive. It first began from the West Road near the Wyman farm, went up the hill past the Dan Wide-awake place, crossed the mountain road from South Dorset and Three Maple Drive making a four corners, and then up into Beartown. In 1880 the present Beartown road was built to provide a shorter route to the top of Mount Equinox then reached by a now grown-up carriage road from Beartown Gap.

The road to Barnumville may have left U.S. Rte. 7 in the Maple Street section via the Ames farm and gone over the ridge north of the present road to avoid building a bridge over the gulf where the road now runs. It is not known when the original road was changed to its present route. Roads were often laid out toward "Brumley" or Bromley, now Peru. These connected with the Turnpike, which was not located in Manchester, but in Winhall. Manchester men were associated with the company which originally built the road in 1810 for \$5,000. It was part of a popular stage route from Boston to Saratoga and was one of the last private turnpikes in Vermont.

As early as March 13, 1906, Marshall Hapgood of Peru agitated for its abolition with a letter to the *Manchester Journal* attacking the company for its poor maintenance of the road. The turnpike finally became so bad with water bars and roughness that the company was obliged to give it up in 1917, 103 years after it was chartered.

The Flat Road from Factory Point to the Depot was built in 1853. The original road through the Center is said to have been from the bridge past the old gristmill and behind what is now the Combination Cash Store and Opera House. If so, this was used only a short while, as the resurvey of the highway in 1811 from the East Dorset line south shows the highway in approximately its present location. It went, however, from the west end of the park past the cemetery

to the Campbell house. The link between the park and Campbell's was built in 1811 and this became the main road.

Early highways were organized into districts, which, like school districts, were complete entities. Each district was in charge of a pathmaster or surveyor whose duties apparently were to keep his respective section of road in repair. Some probably performed their tasks better than others, for a town meeting in 1800 voted that the Selectmen settle with Josiah Custis for a horse which he lost through the public bridge by Timothy Mead's. A town meeting in 1838 named the Selectmen as a committee to investigate an injury done to Elijah Collins in falling through a bridge and to settle with him for injuries to his horse. A meeting the next year directed the Selectmen to repair the Straight bridge and settle for damage to Thomas Johnson's horse. So it can be seen that though the town left responsibility for highway maintenance to the various districts and even refused to provide bridge planking, town meetings did vote to direct Selectmen to adjust damages.

These highway districts changed as need arose. At the March meeting, 1805, it was voted to extend the center highway district to the east end of Straight's bridge. It was also voted that the south highway district on the main road and the south highway district on the middle road be one "intire highway district." On February 28, 1812 it was voted to close the road running between Samuel Strait's and Jabez Hawley's west from the main road.

Roads were worked under the district system by the Selectmen furnishing each surveyor with the names of the men in his district together with their grand list and the amount of tax for which they were liable. This was known as either a Highway Tax Bill or Rate Bill. It was addressed to the surveyor :

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT, you are hereby commanded to levy and collect of the several persons named on the list herewith committed to you, the sum annexed to the name of each person respectively and expend the same on the repairs of Highways and Bridges in said District, according to law.

Penalties were then given for refusal of persons to pay the indicated sums. The document was signed by the Justice of the Peace.

Men could get credit on their taxes when working on districts

other than the one in which they lived. The town meeting of March 18, 1798 voted:

Joshua French be appointed . . . to call on persons to work on the road that leads over the Mountain from this town to Sandgate, and the work done on that Road by persons who live out of the district may be credited on the Rate Bills in the District where the people belong.

On March 18, 1802 it was voted that any man working on the "Northwest Road" could get credit on the tax of his district provided he presented a certificate from Surveyor Samuel Purdy. Work was limited to two days. In 1883 the town meeting voted that highway labor could be paid in money.

Data on bridge construction is meager. A March 24, 1794 town meeting voted that the town would not be accountable for planks to cover five bridges—those by Timothy Mead's mill; across the river by Samuel Strait's; by Nathaniel Bourn's; and across the river by Barney Boorn's. But times changed. An 1805 meeting voted that the Selectmen build or repair at the town's expense one commonly called "Strait's" bridge. It was then voted to reconsider this article, but it did not appear in subsequent warnings. In 1814 a meeting voted to pay Horatio Walker \$4.60 for timbers furnished for bridges.

In the spring of 1884 a substantial iron bridge was constructed across the river near the Colburn House to replace the wooden one fast becoming unsafe. An item in the *Manchester Journal* on July 10 asked, "Cannot some way be found by which the paths leading to the new iron bridge . . . be rendered more safe?" The iron bridge was replaced by the marble bridge dedicated in October 1912. The marble came from Dorset and was worked at the Norcross-West mill at the Depot. The bridge was widened in 1942.

The new cement and steel bridge with a raised sidewalk crossing the West Branch of the Battenkill on Rte. 30 was built in 1942 to replace the inadequate iron one. The bridge at the Depot on the Richville Road was built in 1954 to replace a wood-planked one of iron known as the Hollister bridge which had been built in 1911 at a cost of \$579.63. The next bridge on that road, the Covey bridge over Bourn Brook, was rebuilt in 1929.

The Hard bridge over the Battenkill near the Hard brothers' farm was rebuilt in 1910 at a cost of \$1,003.26 to replace a red-



painted wooden bridge. A small culvert at the end of the Muddy Lane road near the Hards' barn was built in 1923. The new bridge on Rtes. 11-30 near the railroad crossing was constructed in 1955. It replaced a steel-concrete one built in 1913 which in turn had replaced a plank bridge on steel stringers. The present iron bridge in Barnumville was built in 1911 at a cost of \$529.84.

There seems to be little data concerning bridges (1) on the north road recently replaced with a steel culvert; (2) on the road past the Lewis West farm; (3) across Bourn Brook in Hicksville; (4) and across Lye Brook below Richville now replaced with a steel culvert.

Union Street at Manchester Village was opened October 1862. Thus, the original bridge across the Battenkill at the foot of that street may be assumed to have been built about that time. The so-called "Marble Bridge" across the gulf on the Barnumville Road was built in 1903 to replace a wooden structure and to span the track of the Manchester, Dorset, and Granville Railroad to South Dorset. In 1960 that bridge was replaced by an earth fill with a steel culvert at the bottom.

The present layout of roads was completed by the 1860s. Then came the construction of more durable surfacing and provision for dust-laying, especially as automobile traffic began to develop. While the dust nuisance was a frequent matter for discussion at Manchester Village, mud, too, claimed attention. On April 19, 1864 the *Manchester Journal* said:

The road between this Village and Factory Point is the poorest in town, this end being much the worst. The mud to be driven through in going out of the Village that way is unparalleled in quantity and quality. As this road is traveled more than any other, it should be repaired with care proportionate to its importance.

As late as 1905, "sprinkling carts" were relied upon to keep down the dust.

Methods of highway management changed with the years. In 1882 there were seventeen highway districts with an officer elected in each. In 1884 three commissioners of streets and highways were elected. The 1885 town meeting voted that the Selectmen be "street commissioners." Two years later, three street commissioners were elected. The 1891 town meeting elected twelve highway surveyors while Selectmen were to look out for the Rootville Road.



FROM THE HILL NORTH-EAST OF THE DEPOT





"Marble Bridge" across gulf on the Barnumville Road. It was built in 1903 to span the MD&GRR tracks.



Iron bridge constructed at Manchester Center in 1884. Building with steeple in the background is firehouse in its original location.



Marble bridge at Manchester Center, which was dedicated in 1912.

E. B. Smith was elected road commissioner from 1895 to 1897, and in 1909 there was still only one chosen. An article in the 1910 town meeting warning was to see if the town would vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint one or two road commissioners instead of electing them by ballot. The article was dismissed. The 1912 town meeting voted to elect the commissioner by ballot and, with the exception of 1927, that seems to have been the practice until 1941, when the work of that office was taken over by the town manager. The election of the road commissioner was one of the most hotly contested and it often took several ballots to decide the election as there were usually a number of candidates.

The Manchester Board of Trade through the year 1918 kept demanding better roads, though wartime economy was a hindrance to any road improvement program. When state aid was provided, the town always availed itself of such monies as the program permitted. During the depression years of the 1930s, W.P.A. work was used to advantage in the Richville area, in the rebuilding of Three Maple Drive, and on the road up the mountain from Barnumville.

The 1914 town meeting voted \$500 for permanent highway work; the 1918 meeting, \$1,800. Road mileage that year was sixty-four, a figure that has not varied much over the years. A 1918 *Manchester Journal* praised the fine piece of road being made by the Selectmen from A. B. Marsden's to a point near the Bundy (Richardson) place which "when completed will do away with the usually very muddy stretch from N. Charbonneau's to the bridge." This improvement was not permanent, however. In 1926 the town meeting voted to construct a concrete road from the north village limit to the Center bridge and thence across the Flat Road to pavement at Manchester Depot. The cost was amortized over a five-year period.

In May 1931 a special town meeting voted to build the concrete road through the Center from the bridge to the Barnumville Road, for which an annual tax of sixteen cents on the grand list for six years was provided. A 1938 town meeting voted a special five cent tax for a hard surface road from the Depot toward Richville and the following year the Selectmen were authorized to borrow \$3,500 to continue it. A special meeting that year authorized \$500 for work on the Beartown road.

In addition to these special projects, \$1,000 was voted in various years for permanent highway improvement. In 1930 \$6,500 was



spent for snow removal equipment. For a number of years beginning in 1951, there has been an annual voting of \$5,000 to match certain state aid funds for a black topping program which has resulted in a hard surface for the town's principal roads.

A celebration in Manchester September 20, 1930 marked the dedication of the new U.S. Rte. 7 or Ethan Allen Highway from Pownal to Manchester. A parade of cars and floats with impersonations of historical personalities stopped at commemorative points in towns along the route from Pownal. The event ended with exercises at the Manchester Fair Grounds. Route 30 north out of Manchester Center is known as the Seth Warner Memorial Highway. It is designated by a granite marker erected in 1937 near the Baptist church by Ormsby Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Division of the town into two municipalities raised a problem as to equitable allocation of highway tax money between the town and Manchester Village. An agreement was made by which the Village receives a portion of the highway funds according to a formula.

Those early surveyors and pathmasters would be astounded at the traffic along the present main roads and at the annual cost of the present highway system of the town. \$12,300 was requested for highway maintenance for 1960 from a total of \$62,550 asked for public works. Again, as in the past, the main road (U.S. Rte. 7) has become inadequate and plans are afoot to bypass the bottleneck business district at Manchester Center and detour the flow of through-traffic to areas where it can move fast and smoothly.



## CHAPTER V

### “A Loose Town . . .”

THE first log house in Manchester is said to have been built by Samuel Rose, the Tory, in 1764 in the southwest section of the town close to Mount Equinox. In 1769 Rose also built the first framed house of the settlement.<sup>1</sup> On February 23, 1771 Samuel Purdy, grandson of Daniel Purdy, was born. It was the first male birth in the annals of Manchester.

By 1776 the forest still exceeded cleared lands, and roads were only foot and bridle paths. The first public building, a schoolhouse, had made its appearance, but there was not yet a meeting house or a court. The settlers, then numbering less than 600, often lacked all but the necessities of life. They had nothing but what they “could raise among the stumps, catch in the streams, or bring down with a rifle.”<sup>2</sup> Grist and sawmills existed, but no village or store. Men and women clad in buckskin and coarse homespun were inured to work, hardship, and danger.

In 1791, when the Republic of Vermont was finally accepted as the fourteenth state, Manchester had 1,276 inhabitants. Despite wolf raids and the proximity of bear, some back districts of the town were more thickly populated than they would be later. Manchester was “sufficiently advanced in the ways of civilization to number among its institutions, a tailoring establishment and a hatter’s shop. In hours of leisure, the inhabitants amused themselves by racing horses through the street, scouring the woods in hunting

1. Carl M. Chapin, *Manchester in Vermont History* (Manchester, Vt., 1932), p. 4.

2. Loveland Munson, *The Early History of Manchester* (Manchester, Vt., 1876), p. 21.



parties, or playing at wicket on the village green. The management of the town was still in the hands of the earlier settlers.”<sup>3</sup>

The necessity of building a house of worship, to be used also for town meetings and court trials, was generally acknowledged early in Manchester’s existence. However, the place for its location became the subject of much controversy. Judge Munson has said that it was evidently felt that the meeting house location would likely determine the site of the future village. The few records available indicate that the town was quite evenly divided between two localities and thus the matter was long in suspense. Prominent citizens on the old road took part in the argument “with a zeal not altogether spiritual.”

On November 8, 1778, at a meeting legally warned and held at the dwelling place of Martin Powel, it was voted to build a heavy frame meeting house thirty feet square on such a site as might be selected by an appointed committee of three “indifferent” (impartial) people. On June 14, 1779, at a second meeting also held at Powel’s, it was voted that the meeting house be built forty feet by thirty-six feet and two stories high. This time it was to be located as near to the dwelling of Christopher Roberts “as the ground and circumstances will permit.” Roberts lived on what is now the West Road.

The timbers for the frame were prepared at that spot, but were surreptitiously removed one night by the opposing faction and deposited on the public common. In November 1779 the town again voted to build the meeting house on such a spot as the committee would select.

A freeman’s meeting adjourned to the meeting house on the first Tuesday of September 1784. Thus it would seem, though church history gives the meeting house as being erected in 1780, that Manchester land records indicate a later date, probably between March and September 1784.<sup>4</sup>

It was a plain wooden building with galleries and square pews built on ground a little south of the present Congregational church.

It was twenty years and eleven days after the chartering of Manchester before any decisive measures were adopted for the regular

3. Munson, *Manchester*, p. 51.

4. *Land Records*, Manchester, Vermont, vol. 1, p. 68.

administration of religious ordinances. Even so, the people were not destitute of gospel preaching. Meetings were held at Soper's tavern at Munson's Falls below the glebe lot and various barns were opened for worship in the summer. In 1781 the Baptists organized at Factory Point. But at the Village a long period of religious neglect began. One reason might have been the difficulties arising from conflicting claims of New York and New Hampshire to land under the New Hampshire Grants. Many Manchester people were exposed to “vexations, suits, and executions levied on their farms.” They were, therefore, in no mood for religion.

Another reason may have been the conflicting religious, rather than political, loyalties of those who would have fought with the Whigs on the side of independence in the Revolution, but had turned Tory. Though they felt able to break political ties with the King, “those who belonged to the Church of England would not rebel against the head of the church and by the Grace of God, the Defender of their Faith.”<sup>5</sup> These people were required to offer up daily prayer for the King. Thus it was that in towns where the Church of England was the prevailing faith, the inhabitants were mostly Tories.

These religious and political controversies made progressive movements within the town come slowly. In the area now encompassed by Manchester Village resided an unusual number of talented men, all Yale graduates. There were several doctors and lawyers. Judge Hitchcock and Colonel Keys had been officers in Sheldon's regiment of dragoons during the Revolution. None of these men, however, was interested in the promotion of religion.

Even those of lesser education seemed to feel no religious need. The Rose family professed no religion and contributed nothing to its support. The Purdys, though moral men, had no interest. Timothy Mead was no professor of faith though he aided the cause eventually with his money and influence. Excepting his son, Truman, all his children “became intemperate” and the huge Mead properties embracing all Factory Point passed out of that name soon after Timothy's death. Major Gideon Ormsby, foremost in building the meeting house and always liberal in maintaining

5. Judge J. S. Pettibone, “Papers.”

preaching, was not considered religious. Judge Pettibone heard the minister who visited Ormsby in his last illness say that he "believed he was a Christian man." Mrs. Ormsby was one of the few who first united with the Congregational church in Manchester.

War was an unfortunate influence. The leading men of the town had formed the habit of assembling in the taverns. Drinking, gambling, and immorality were common. The Rev. Nathan Perkins of West Hartford, Connecticut, who made a journey on horseback through Vermont in 1789, wrote of Manchester in his diary: "A half shire town hemmed in by lofty mountains. A number of houses in ye center, a small metting house, half Baptist, a loose town."

Inhabitants of the south part of Manchester united with Sunderland people to build a meeting house on the flats east of the Battenkill. A wealthy society supported it—Isaac Burton, Eli Brownson, Samuel Pettibone, the Sheldons, and even Major Ormsby. Chauncey Lee from Connecticut was their pastor until about 1785 when he left Manchester. The society was dissolved.

From 1794 to 1800 a moral change came to the town. It has been attributed to the large number of merchants and professional men who, if not religious, were at least devoted to the development of a good moral and religious community. A warning was given March 25, 1797 for a meeting to see if Manchester freemen would agree on some mode of gospel preaching and its support.

By 1801 three local churches had a good start. Timothy Dwight, Yale's first president, who traveled through Vermont in 1823, wrote:

The inhabitants of Manchester, like those of many other new settlements, are divided in their religious opinions; but with a catholicism, less common than could be wished, have generally agreed to employ successively preachers of the several denominations of religion in the town, whenever they could find those, against whose character, deportment, and preaching, there could be no reasonable objection.

Emigrants coming to Manchester and liking the climate and beautiful surroundings chose it for their home. One was Richard Skinner of Connecticut, first of that illustrious name in Vermont. He came to Manchester about 1800, riding "up to the hotel on a small active road horse, with capacious saddlebags well filled. He



was a slender, straight, trim-built young man, courteous in his manners, with very black eyes and hair and dark complexion—dressed in the usual costume of the day, of equestrian travelers—a blue dress coat, light vest, and olive colored velvet cheerivalles over his pants and boots, with spurs.”<sup>6</sup> By 1856 Skinner was governor of Vermont and the owner of a large estate a few doors south of the Equinox House.

Though the witchcraft delusion had long been over in Massachusetts, a general belief in the supernatural prevailed. Manchester, too, was not untouched. Captain Isaac Burton married Rachel Harris, stepdaughter of Esquire Powel, who was a “fine, healthy, beautiful girl.” Not long after the marriage, she went into a decline and died of consumption. Captain Burton took Huldah, own daughter of Powel, as his second wife. She also was a “healthy, goodlooking girl” but shortly after the wedding she, too, became consumptive. According to Judge Pettibone:

In the last stages a strange infatuation took possession of the minds of . . . the friends of the family and they were induced to believe that if the vitals of the first wife could be consumed by being burned in a charcoal fire, it would effect a cure of the sick wife. Such was the strange delusion that they disinterred the first wife who had been buried nearly three years or more. They took out the liver, heart, and lungs what remained of them and burned them to ashes on the blacksmith’s forge of Jacob Mead. Timothy Mead officiated at the altar in this sacrifice to the Demon Vampire who it was believed was still sucking the blood of the living wife of Captain Burton. It was in the month of February and good sleighing. Such was the excitement that from five hundred to one thousand people were present. This account was furnished me by an eye witness. . . .

This same weird strain was to show itself again not long afterward in Manchester’s celebrated Boorn murder mystery. Much has already been published concerning this most famous Vermont legal case. It began in 1812 with the disappearance of partially deranged Russell Colvin and ended in 1819 with his return in time to save Stephen Boorn from hanging.

Several years after the disappearance, Boorn’s uncle, Amos, a

6. Winslow Watson, *The Life and Character of the Hon. Richard Skinner* (Albany, N. Y., 1863), p. 5.



man of impeccable character, reported dreaming three nights in succession that Colvin had come to his bedside to tell Amos that he had been murdered and that he would lead him to the spot where the corpse was hid. On circumstantial evidence alone, Stephen Boorn and his brother, Jesse, were brought to trial for the crime.

This unprecedented legal case, one of the most remarkable on record, has been used as the basis of several books. It has been often quoted by the opponents of capital punishment to show the insufficiency of circumstantial evidence alone to warrant conviction.

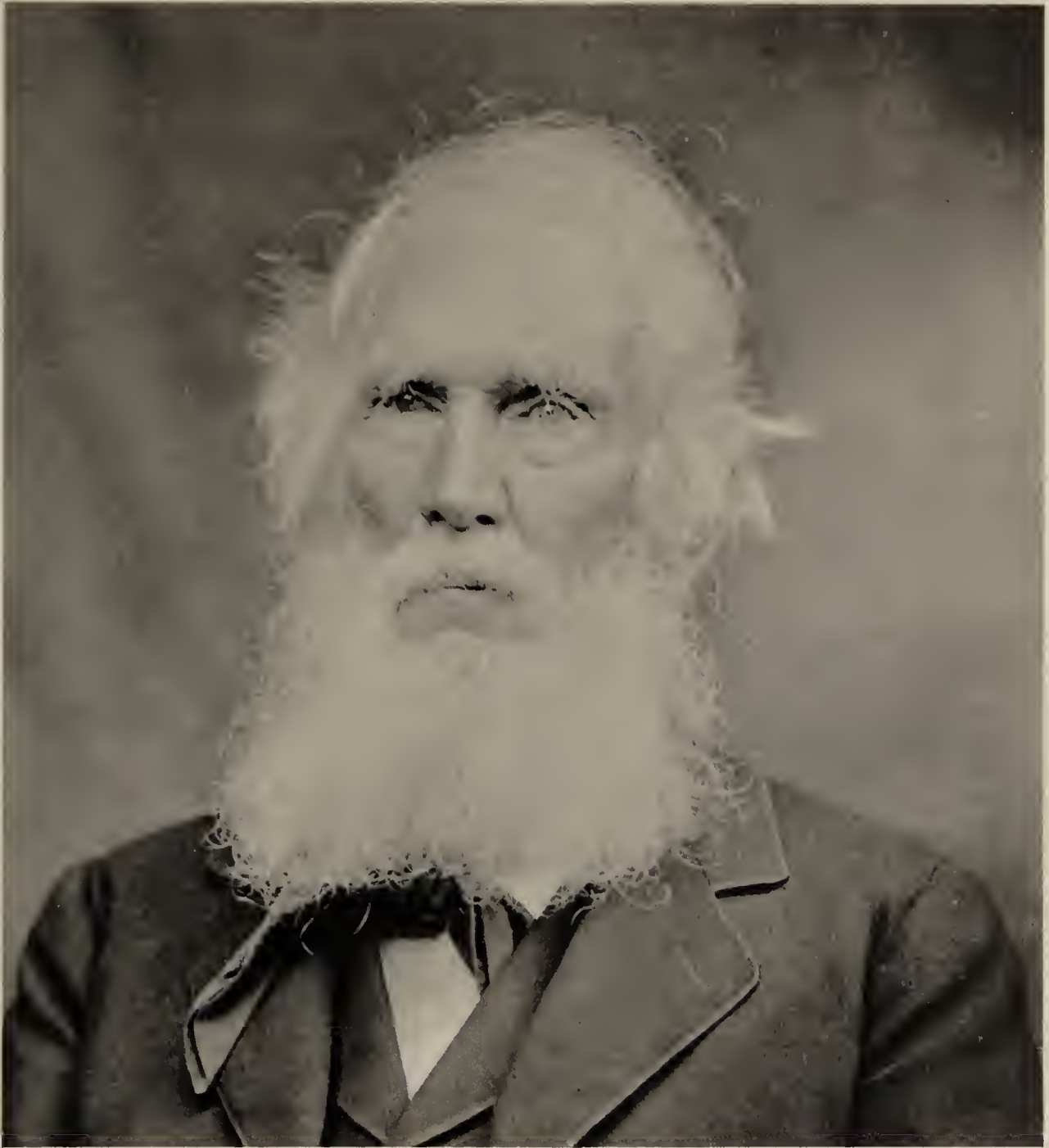
The interest of the townsfolk was so overwhelming that the trial was held in the Congregational meeting house for lack of courtroom space. (The Court House was not built until 1822.) It was an instance of one of those strange manias which sometimes sweep through the most intelligent communities destroying truth, reason, and justice. Richard Skinner, who with Leonard Sargeant composed the Counsel for Defense, said, "It would have been as easy to resist the cataract of Niagara as to arrest this torrent of passion and prejudice."<sup>7</sup> The finger of accusation pointed even to the innocent mother of the Boorns, who was unanimously excommunicated from the Baptist church.

Jesse Boorn was sentenced to life imprisonment. Stephen, perhaps despairing to ever turn the tide of feeling against him, confessed August 27, 1819. The "confession," however, proved to be false in late November when word arrived in Manchester that Russell Colvin was not only alive and well, but had been residing in New Jersey since April 1813!

Colvin's return produced the wildest excitement:

After some delay (from Bennington) the coach proceeded on its way, a messenger having been sent ahead to announce its approach. All along the road wondering crowds gazed upon him, and toward evening, as they drew near Manchester, the coachman whipped up his jaded horses, a signal was made and the conveyance . . . dashed through the principal street and drew up, in the midst of an excited throng, in front of Captain Black's tavern. The cry "Colvin has come" rang throughout the village. Everyone came running to obtain a sight of him and gathered around in a dense crowd. Guns were fired and people ran through the

7. Watson, *Richard Skinner*, p. 19.



Lieutenant-Governor of Vermont, Leonard Sargeant (1793–1888), who with Richard Skinner, later Governor, composed the Counsel for Defense in the famous Boorn murder trial.



Baptist church, Manchester Center, built in 1833.



streets shouting the news. . . . The prison door was opened and Stephen was brought forth. The fetters upon his wrists were removed but those upon his ankles were left possibly through the caution of the jailer, who might, even then, have suspected the possibility of a hoax and an escape. Colvin was brought before him, and inquired why he was in chains. “Because,” answered Stephen, “they say I murdered you.” “You never hurt me,” was the reply. . . . A cannon was produced and a salute of fifty guns was given, the first of which was discharged by Stephen.<sup>8</sup>

Jesse Boorn was released from Windsor prison and Mrs. Boorn immediately reinstated in the church. The Boorn brothers and Russell Colvin all moved out of Vermont to begin new lives.

Life in early nineteenth-century Manchester was a struggle for all. There was no place for drones. The unpainted houses were without blinds. Sometimes there was a straggling fence. Always there were animals, everywhere. Hogs, their ears notched to indicate ownership, ran loose on the Village green.

Inside the homes, the kitchen was usually the largest and most comfortable room, warmed by a fireplace filled with blazing logs. About 1828 cooking stoves came into use, but housewives preferred the old reliable brick oven, heated once weekly, and the bake-kettle used in the fireplace. Until stoves were common, very few tin utensils were used. All, including every size kettle down to the little two-quart “Peters,” were iron. These had iron bails and three legs and could be hung on a crane or set on coals. Earthen milk pans were also used.

Early winter was killing time when pork and beef were prepared for the whole year. Hams were cured, sausage made, lard tried out, and tallow made into the annual candle supply. Every family kept a supply of herbs on hand in case of illness—strings of red pepper made “pepper tea” for colds; wormwood was applied to sprains or bruises. Pennyroyal, thoroughwort or boneset, catnip, tansy, mint, sage, or rue were all gathered before “dog days” and dried in a dark room. Every family knew how to use these remedies and doctors were called only in the most serious cases.

The loom was set up in the kitchen while weaving was in prog-

8. Sherman R. Moulton, *The Boorn Mystery, An Episode from the Judicial Annals of Vermont* (Montpelier, 1937), pp. 50, 51.



ress, about half the year. Wool was sent to the mill to be carded and made into rolls. It was then spun and woven at home. After the tedious spinning, spooling, warping, and weaving, the web of cloth was used for household purposes or sent to be dyed, fulled, and dressed for men's wear at the factory. The cloth for women's wear was not fulled, but was often dyed a bright color. Maroon was a favorite.

After the winter's weaving was done, the little wheels were brought out and the spinning of flax and tow was begun. Some were fine for bed linen, tablecloths, personal apparel, trousers, and dresses. Both summer and winter clothing was made mostly at home, a tailoress coming to the house to make the men's and boys' clothes and a dressmaker and milliner, the women's and girls'. A shoemaker also came, bringing his bench and kit of tools to make the year's supply of shoes and to mend the old ones. When O. G. Felt began learning the trade in Manchester in December 1866, girls and women wore calfskin shoes attached to the soles with wooden pegs. Since the shoes were made on straight lasts and could be worn on either foot, careful women alternated their shoes to make them last. Men and boys wore kipskin boots and, occasionally, calfskin boots for Sunday.

A bolt of cloth or perhaps a dozen pair of knit socks could be exchanged at the store for flour, sugar, tea, or coffee. Since little ready money was in circulation, merchants took anything brought to them—dried apples, pork, beef, butter, cheese, eggs—and sent them to Troy, New York, the nearest market. In return, the merchants received groceries and small stocks of dried goods. Nothing was of good quality. Cotton goods did not become plentiful until after 1831. Rum and molasses were always on hand.

In the 1820s postage for a single letter cost twenty-five cents though stamps were not used until about 1848 and envelopes much later. The first stamps were on plain paper and had to be cut with scissors. A Mr. Steele, who invented the machine to perforate stamps, lived in Manchester for many years. Pens were made of goose quills and everyone carried a sharp penknife.<sup>9</sup>

9. Most of foregoing paragraphs on early Manchester life were the recollections of Susan S. Miner in a column by Mary Utley Robbins, *Manchester Journal*, August–December 1923.



## CHAPTER VI

# Finances

THE changing tax pattern of 200 years is a reliable indicator of changing times, especially in economics—the lifeblood of a community.

As long as the Proprietors remained in control of Manchester, necessary funds to meet survey and highway expenses were secured by direct levy upon each right or lot held by the Proprietors without thought of valuation. After the inhabitants took over town government, property was listed and the owners were taxed according to the value of property statements given to the listers. An act of the Legislature of 1778, modeled after Connecticut tax law, provided for the listing of property for taxation purposes and established the principle of the grand list, various property items being set in the list at definite rates of value.

Though early tax rates were extremely low, economic conditions were such that many landowners could not meet their tax obligations. Evidence of this is found in the pages of constables' tax sales recorded in Land Records, volumes 8 and 9.

At a town meeting September 7, 1790 it was voted that the two-penny tax voted at the previous meeting be paid in grain at certain established prices. Apparently cash was somewhat scarce at this time, nearly thirty years after the first settlements were made.

A law of 1819 established different percentages of valuation for different types of real estate and in 1820 valuations were put on a dollars and cents basis instead of pounds and shillings, the English coinage previously used. An act in 1841 established the listing of

property at one per cent of its valuation. That principle, reaffirmed again in 1880, is in use today.

Acceptance of the principle that property is a just indication of tax-paying ability was based on the fact that New England people of old stock were a saving people. Whatever was earned beyond the necessities of life was turned into property, usually of a remunerative type. Property thus became an index of ability to pay.

Some citizens, of course, were suspected of not handing a complete list of their property to the listers. To combat such a tendency, an act of 1778 gave the listers power to add to the list, property items not expressly declared. Such items were fourfolded and added to the list. It was further provided that one half of these fourfolded amounts should go to the listers as an incentive to greater diligence on their part. Apparently this method did not meet with universal approval. The town meeting of March 15, 1808 voted to pay listers from the treasury and monies arising from the twofold to be paid into the treasury. The town meeting of March 14, 1815 voted "that listers release their right to the town of their share of twofold, the town are to pay them 75c a day."

It was voted to raise a tax of one cent on the grand list of 1809, one half to be paid April 1 and one half November 1, 1810. This was repeated in 1811, 1814, and 1823. Voted in addition to this property tax were: one-half cent on the dollar for support of the poor in 1812; one cent to build a road through the glebe April 6, 1812; one and one-half cents to equip the militia for the country's defense in 1812; and one cent for support of the poor in 1822.

Taxes began an upward climb in 1824 when a two-cent poll tax was voted in addition to one and one-half cents on the dollar of the grand list. The town meeting of March 14, 1825 voted two cents on the grand list plus a dog tax of fifty cents. If not paid, any dog could be killed. The March 4, 1828 meeting voted a tax of two cents on the grand list of 1827 and apparently this was not enough. Another meeting, June 10, voted three cents.

A rise to four per cent March 1, 1842 was not out of line, but then the rate really began to climb with fifteen cents voted in 1843; twenty cents in 1844; a drop to fifteen again in 1845. The rise in taxes over the years has been paced by a rise in town services as well as by the declining value of the dollar in recent years. This has been coupled with a general rise in wages and prices.



The tax rate for 1892 reached \$1, composed of seventy-five cents for schools and twenty-five cents for highways. Subsequent tax rates were:

**1166932**

|             |             |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1914—\$1.40 | 1929—\$2.80 | 1950—\$ 6.25 |
| 1918— 1.75  | 1930— 3.00  | 1953— 7.05   |
| 1925— 2.30  | 1937— 3.15  | 1957— 8.13   |
| 1926— 2.50  | 1947— 4.45  | 1959— 9.99   |
| 1927— 2.60  | 1949— 5.50  | 1960— 10.69  |

These figures are for the total tax, but from 1890 to 1915 there was a state school tax and a state highway tax of ten cents included in the total. Some portion of these taxes came back to the town according to a formula indicating a need for aid.

A tax rate in itself does not tell the whole story of a community's economic picture. Other factors are the grand list which represents total property wealth in the town and the rate of valuation at which property is put on the grand list. The lower the valuation or assessment, the higher the tax rate and vice versa.

During the seventy years from 1887 to 1957, Manchester's grand list rose from \$12,908 to a top of \$30,737.25, but the rise has not been steady. From 1893 to 1900 it was in the ten thousands, after which it made rather steady gains to reach \$20,765.75 in 1914, when the total tax rate reached a new high of \$1.40. Then apparently Manchester entered a period of growing prosperity as the grand list index reached its top of \$30,737.25 with a new high in the tax rate of \$8.13.

The rise in the tax rate has largely been due to a need to meet increased expenses. Perhaps the strongest influence back of the steady rise in expenses has been a similar steady increase in services demanded of and provided by the local government, such as the following:

1. The 1928 town meeting voted \$500 to the Manchester Nursing Association. This grant gradually increased to \$2,100 voted in 1960.
2. The 1922 meeting voted \$600 for installation of a fire alarm signal and in 1923, \$300 for fire protection. The 1960 budget for the fire department was \$9,950.
3. The 1907 town meeting voted \$100 to the Union Band, which in later years became \$300 for band concerts. Similar sums have been voted



for Memorial Day, Loyalty Day, skating rink, dental clinics, advertising, planning, zoning, etc.

4. A special town meeting in 1918 voted \$1,000 for highway improvement, which finally grew to an appropriation of \$5,000 for a black topping program.
5. In 1923 a town meeting authorized the Selectmen to buy an auto truck; in 1930 snow removal equipment was not to exceed \$6,500. By 1959 public works equipment alone reached an inventory value of \$79,400, while total inventory equipment in all departments had reached \$127,415.

In 1925 the grand total of town expenses was \$38,550.55. In 1959 it was \$186,209.68. The current operating expenses of the schools, exclusive of bonded debt service, increased from \$29,882.25 in 1925 to \$181,734.77 in 1959. The reader should remember that these gross figures are quoted to illustrate an economic trend which also applies to state aid in its various fields. The local tax rate, therefore, has not supplied all the funds for all the gross expenses quoted. Expenses have increased, as indicated, regardless of the source of the money to meet them.

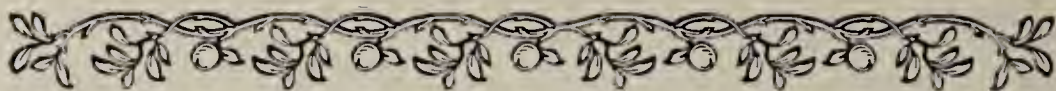
The grand list for 1925 was \$24,781.72 while that for 1960 was \$30,002.21, a gain of twenty-one plus per cent. But the tax rate for the same period rose from \$2.30 to \$10.69, an increase of about 365 per cent. This is worthy of reflection, as such a wide discrepancy may be of considerable significance. Fortunately, perhaps, the grand list is not such an accurate index of income, wealth, and tax-paying ability as in the early years of the town when income was less dependent upon more intangible sources.

Another matter of historical interest is the decline in voter control of expenditures. As late as 1930, town officials were authorized to buy equipment, but the proportion of the present \$127,415 inventory of equipment that voting citizens have had opportunity to authorize (except indirectly through budget approval) seems quite small. The 1948 town meeting voted to use the Australian ballot for all questions calling for an appropriation of \$500 or more to be voted at any future, regular or special, town meetings or school district meetings. This provision has not been applied to either the general town or the school district budgets.

The town's record in indebtedness has been good as far as its current business is concerned. When small deficits have occurred, they have been promptly taken care of and not allowed to accumulate.

The first excursion into bonded indebtedness was that of \$400,000 by the school district in 1949 for a new elementary school. That debt, regularly amortized at a rate of \$20,000 a year, has been reduced by half in 1960. In view of its financial condition and record, the school district secured the bonds at a low rate of one and three-fourths per cent interest besides a bonus of \$800. The rating was based on an analysis of town reports for a period of years and its general outlook for prosperity.

A special town meeting, June 21, 1960, reaffirmed a previous vote for a new bonded indebtedness of \$230,000 for a sewage system and disposal plant. Now the combined school district and town will have a total bonded debt of \$430,000 which falls upon the same taxpayers, residents of both municipalities.



## CHAPTER VII

# Churches in Manchester

### § *The Baptist Church*

THE first denomination to be set up in Manchester was Baptist. The Rev. Joseph Cornell, the earliest pastor, became entitled to special land set aside by the town charter for the first settled minister. Before his fourteen-year pastorate was over, he agreed to give up this land for one acre near the Baptist meeting house. Ardently evangelistic, Cornell was a great missionary spirit and Manchester became a center from which his influence spread.

The Baptist Society was organized June 22, 1781 in Elder Cornell's barn with the advice and aid of Elder Nathan Mason who, with other delegates, represented the Baptist Church of Lanesboro, Massachusetts. Many of the early Manchester settlers had belonged to the Baptist "colony" which had come into southern Vermont a few years previously from Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

A strong Baptist element it was, for there were 110 members in the new church from Manchester and 82 from Dorset. The organization was called "Church of Jesus Christ in Manchester" or the "Anabaptist Society in Manchester."

Uniting of Baptist churches in clusters for purposes of mutual improvement and more efficient action brought about organization of the "Vermont Association" in Manchester in 1785. The local group fell out with the Vermont Association in 1791 and remained independent until Covenant Day, January 31, 1818, when it was

"voted to appoint Elder Chamberlain, Deacon George Galusha, and Brother Benjamin Sunderland to meet in Convention with delegates from a number of churches in this vicinity, in order to form an association in this part of the land."<sup>1</sup> The "Manchester Association," like the Vermont Association, was formed in Elder Cornell's barn.

The Vermont Association continued to exist but membership fell off rapidly. In fact, Elder Cornell is said to have become so disheartened that he moved from Manchester.

The first meeting of the Baptist Society was September 16, 1784 at the home of Nathan Beeman. The earliest clerk was David Vaughn, who fought at the Battle of Bennington. Among those at one of the earliest meetings were Timothy Mead, Nathaniel Boorn, Robert Logan, Eliakim Deming, Captain George Sexton, Captain Thomas Bull, Isaac Whelpley, Benjamin Straight, Benjamin Vaughn, Captain Jacob Odel, Daniel Bowen, Major Nathan Smith, Jeremiah Wait, and Dana Lee.

Services were often held in the upper part of a building near Munson's Falls on Glebe Brook, a place now quite remote from any road or dwelling. This place may have been Soper's tavern.

After the Revolution, many Manchester residents, who for reasons of safety had temporarily settled here, returned to their former homes. The Anabaptist church lost so many members that in 1794 a council was held to consider continuance of the church. By a two to one vote, it decided a church could exist "with five male members and a number of sisters." On September 16, 1802 delegates were appointed to "council with members in the east part of Dorset to constitute a church." During this period, references to the reception of members from the First, Fourth, and East Baptist churches, all of Shaftsbury, have also been found.

Timothy Mead, who in those early years owned most of Factory Point land and buildings, held up the development of that area greatly. By asking him to be on their building committee with Nathaniel Boorn and Eliakim Deming, the Baptists, in September 1785, got him to make the first and only exception to his tight-fisted rule. With his permission and assistance, the Baptist meeting

1. All quotations in this section, excepting the second, from The Rev. J. S. Brown, *Historical Sketch of the First Baptist Church in Manchester, Vermont*, 1916.



house, forty-four by thirty-two feet, was erected on his property at Factory Point close to his east line.

Though the church was supposedly built in 1785, it was not until 1791 that Mead conveyed to the Baptist Society the land on which it stood. This location was then on a main road on what came to be known as "Meeting House Hill" on the westerly side of what is now the Factory Point Cemetery. The remains of the north wall were unearthed at one time when digging and improvements were in progress on cemetery property.

In 1812 the meeting house was described as a very plain edifice of moderate size. The pulpit was surmounted by a large sounding board. The pews were square with a bench on three sides and a door on the fourth with rows of spindles around the top. There were two aisles, the box pews arranged between the aisles and outside each aisle along the walls. A gallery for the singers extended around three sides of the church, an arrangement similar to but smaller than that of the old Congregational meeting house. There was no chimney or means of heating the building, but everyone who could brought a footstove. Susan S. Miner, who was born in 1821, remembered seeing, after the old church was demolished, "door-yard fences made from the old spindle-topped pews. There was no paint either within or on the outside of the church, but the interior woodwork seemed very handsome to me. . . ."2

The second pastor, the Rev. Calvin Chamberlain, a Revolutionary pensioner and a man of great influence, came from Brandon in 1801 and added more than forty members in his first year in Manchester. The tall dignified Elder Chamberlain "formed the habit of praying with his eyes open, in order that he might guard the choice apple trees standing on the ground then occupied by him as a residence from . . . naughty boys who sought . . . to purloin the forbidden fruit during the hour of prayer, and who were much mystified at being discovered. . . ." He died in November 1824.

The meeting house was repaired in 1821 and a porch added to the north end. In 1825 the first Sunday School at Factory Point was organized. In those days the minister's salary was subscribed by his congregation, though he found it necessary to collect it himself.

2. Recollections of Susan S. Miner in columns by Mary Utley Robbins, *Manchester Journal*, August–December 1923.

His woodpile, too, was furnished by the church if the "committee on the minister's woodpile" was conscientious. Three consecutive absences on the part of a parishioner meant a visit from the "church committee" and, if unrepentant, sterner measures of discipline.

At a meeting in the schoolhouse January 1, 1833 it was voted to build a new church "between Ames Corner and Christopher Roberts'" or on the old site. Twenty shares were subscribed at \$100 each. On the building committee were John Harris, William Jameson, Ebenezer Colby, John S. Pettibone, Martin Slocum, Loring Dean, and James Wheaton. Harris, Dean, and Pettibone were also on the committee to dispose of the old meeting house, which is said to have been burned.

The new church was built in 1833 after many long discussions and exhibitions of temper. Made of bricks drawn from Bennington, it cost \$2,400 and is described in church records as being "forty by fifty feet, with a steeple, and conveniently furnished within, having a porch, and a singing gallery over it, and capable of seating about 500 people."

An original paper listing subscribers who paid for "whitewashing and cleaning Baptist Meeting house on Factory Point. February 4, 1842" is in the Whipple Collection along with a pew receipt signed by the committee, Loring Dean and John W. Harris, and made out to Martin Slocum:

No. 2

Une place dans le Sanctuaire  
... a wall slip in the north end of ...  
the Brick Baptist Meeting House at  
Factory Point, Aug. 23, 1834

In 1843 a marble platform was built and in 1873 many alterations and improvements were made. The additions of a vestry, classrooms, and offices have changed the edifice considerably and in 1960 the front section of the church was painted white rather than the original red that blended with the brick.

The average number of communicants to the Baptist church prior to 1858 was 100. By 1863 it had risen to 226. This was the period sometimes called the "Peacock Revival" after the elder who assisted the Rev. A. M. Swain in an evangelistic summer campaign.

Close upon this recruitment came the Rev. E. B. Hulbert, who always said that the Manchester church "had more theology than the Chicago Divinity School." When his sermons did not please local theologians, they assailed him at the foot of the pulpit. "One ancient maiden lady was especially gifted in this respect. The young pastor would deftly get the leading lights engaged in controversy one with the other, and then he would slip away to dinner."

The Rev. T. S. Archibald was remembered by one of his parishioners as being exceptionally powerful in prayer. She never forgot the first time she attended the Manchester church. As the pastor ended his pastoral prayer, an admirer in the congregation exclaimed audibly, "I wish he would pray forever."

During the anti-Masonic excitement, the Baptist church, in common with all churches in this vicinity, suffered greatly. So strong was the anti-Masonic feeling that as late as 1900 a prominent member of the church said, "The only thing I have against my pastor is that he is a Mason."

The following men have been pastors of the Baptist church in Manchester. A complete list of their tenures, however, is not available.

Joseph Cornell 1778-1792  
 Beriah Kelly 1794  
 Calvin Chamberlain 1800-1824  
 John R. Dodge 1823  
 E. P. Reynolds  
 Moses Field  
 Silas Kennedy  
 Dexter P. Smith  
 D. W. Burroughs  
 Harvey I. Parker 1842-1844  
 G. S. Stockwell  
 Winthrop Morse  
 Stephen Wright  
 T. S. Archibald 1853-1857, 1877-1880  
 A. M. Swain 1861-1863  
 O. C. Kirkham 1864  
 E. B. Hulbert 1865-1868  
 C. J. Butler  
 W. S. Blaisdell





*Above:* St. John's Episcopal chapel at its second location in the Village is used during July and August. Originally the chapel was situated on Seminary Avenue. *Left:* First Congregational church in Manchester Village as it appears today. It was built in 1871 to replace a brick edifice. *Below:* Zion Episcopal church at Manchester Center. Consecrated in 1821, the building has been much remodeled.







Manchester Elementary School, which was dedicated in 1951. This centralized educational-community center replaced seven smaller scattered schools.



Burr and Burton Seminary, 1829–1961, Vermont's first privately endowed academy and first coeducational school above the elementary level.

D. F. Estes 1874-1876  
J. A. Swart 1881-1887, 1893-1898  
E. E. Brown  
Herbert Probert  
O. F. Waltze  
J. A. Swart  
J. N. Lattermer  
D. R. Weston  
J. S. Brown 1901-1906, 1912-1922  
H. S. McCready 1906  
E. M. Fuller  
F. S. Clark  
J. A. Donald  
C. W. Turner 1925  
Paul Goodwin  
Philip Gregory  
Arthur M. Clark  
Albert R. Phillips  
Philetus McDowell  
George W. Peck, Jr.  
Edgar W. Johnson 1947

### § *First Congregational Church*

DURING the years of conflict Manchester's earliest religious societies struggled into existence. The first "ministerial labor" performed here was by the Rev. Seth Swift in 1776. He was a Congregationalist. In October 1780 those interested in the denomination instructed a committee to "procure some agreeable person to preach the Gospel," but it was many years before they had the services of a resident pastor.

The Congregational Society, officially organized in 1782, had a moderator, clerk, treasurer, collector, and committee of three in general charge of business. The church itself was organized with seven members in 1784, all Revolutionary soldiers or their wives: Nathan and Phoebe Richardson, Amos Richardson, Andrew and Mercy Richardson, Mercy (Mrs. Gideon) Ormsby, and Sarah (Mrs. Josiah) Burton. Andrew Richardson and Asa Loveland in 1805 were the first two formally elected deacons. The two separate organizations did not unite until December 28, 1925, when the So-



ciety voted to join with the church in a new corporation called "The First Congregational Church."

Probably the most important early pastor of the church was the renowned Lemuel Haynes of African descent. The Rev. Haynes came here in 1818 after a thirty-year pastorate in West Rutland. He left in 1822. During his tenure in Manchester he served as spiritual advisor to the Boorn brothers during their celebrated murder trial. His biography has been published, an excellent picture of an early divine.

In the fall of 1829 the original meeting house was razed to be replaced by a brick church built through the efforts of the church and Congregational Society. Ebenezer Colby was the contractor. Members subscribed to a church building fund and the following IOU dated April 17, 1830 shows how subscribers met their payments in times when currency was scarce:

Jonas Woodbury promises to pay \$25 to Ebenezer Colby in one year from date five dollars to be in store pay, ten dollars in grain, five dollars in good full cloth, the remainder in pork and live hogs; to pay interest until the principal is paid, it being for half a pew in the new Congregational meeting house.

During construction Sabbath services were held in the Court House. It was expected that the building would be ready for the ordination and installation of the Rev. James Anderson, but it was not finished in time and the exercises were held August 12, 1829 in Governor Skinner's apple orchard on the same side of the street, but south of the present site of the Episcopal chapel. Dr. Griffin, president of Williams College, was the ordaining pastor.

The brick church had galleries on three sides, one of which was, in 1833, reserved for Burr Seminary students. The pews with doors were raised a little from the floor. The pulpit was at first placed on the west side between the doors. However, after a few years the Rev. Anderson expressed himself as "uncomfortable" both from the noisy entrances and from the direct heat of the stoves on his right and left. In fact, he is said to have remarked that he "preferred not to be roasted alive." By reversing the pulpit and gallery, not only were the places of the pastor and choir changed, but also the direction in which the pews faced. This was quite agreeable to

the worshippers who disliked facing the entire congregation upon entering the church.

During Anderson's long and fruitful pastorate, nearly 300 members were added to the church. It was also during this time that Burr and Burton Seminary students presented their oral "exhibitions" before parents and friends in the meeting house. A minister of the old school, the Rev. Anderson was still clearly remembered by Mrs. Mary Munson when she came to write her history of the church in 1934. As an old man, she said, he "protested against the milk trains which had begun to run through the valley on Sundays."

Agitation for a new church began in 1864 when the congregation became weary of the tottering cupola, the dingy exterior, the shattered blinds, faulty heaters, and cushioned and uncushioned seats. The Sunday School, too, was so large that Mrs. Anderson was forced to conduct her classes at the Court House. (Her headstone at Dellwood Cemetery is inscribed "The Children's Teacher.")

Franklin H. Orvis, at the height of his business wizardry, wrote his personal opinion of the new church in a letter from New York City to S. J. Hawley in Manchester on July 27, 1869:

If a new church can be built on the Munson lot as talked of and a park on the old grounds I think it will be a very good change for our village. Try and help the matter along. We must make our village as inviting as possible to strangers. The new railroad will fill us up next summer and I fully expect to see a larger hotel built there before long. Talk with your father on the church matter and give my respects to him.

Orvis got his wish. The church was built a little further to the north and he was able to get the schoolhouse removed from the Village green to a location on the West Road. This opened up a fairly good view for his porch-sitters at the Equinox House.

In April 1871 laborers found the old brick edifice so well and strongly built that it was difficult to tear down. Some of the bricks are supposedly still in the woods north of the Peru road on the Long Trail where they were used for charcoal kilns. The contractors and architect for the new church were from Troy, New York, and the firm of Cummings and Burt. The laborers, also from Troy, boarded at Mrs. Vanderlip's hotel across the street. Even the woodwork in the new church is said to have come from a Troy factory.



Apparently the laborers' language was not always the most commendable. The Rev. Mr. Cushman, sitting in his parsonage on the corner of Seminary Avenue, found it necessary late one afternoon to send a message across the street—"Mr. Cushman wishes to remind you of the edifice you are at work upon."

While the church was being built, services again were held in the Court House and also at the Music Hall on Union Street at the invitation of Mr. Orvis. The expense of the building was somewhat defrayed by the sale of pews which went for 25 to 100 dollars to the highest bidder as was the custom. From member subscriptions came \$15,000 of the total required \$23,000, while the remainder came from outside friends. The church and new carriage sheds were completed during the week of July 17, 1871, and the building committee found it necessary to ask for payment without delay.

The slate-roofed church with the magnificent spire 150 feet high was dedicated August 23, 1871. The clock was given by Henry Hurlburt of New York City, the 4,000-pound bell by Mark Skinner of Chicago, and the pipe organ by Pierpont Isham of New York and his son, Edward S. Isham of Chicago. Some ten years later, Judge Skinner gave a second bell to replace the earlier one, which cracked.

Two people intimately connected with the Congregational church over a long period were the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Wickham. As headmaster and trustee of Burr and Burton Seminary, Dr. Wickham was never official pastor of the church. But greatly beloved by the parish, he often officiated in the minister's absence at weddings, funerals, and church services. He conducted a huge and popular Sunday School class. A Yale graduate, Wickham had a remarkable knowledge of Scripture and was said to have been "a walking encyclopedia of the religious work of his century." He contributed frequently to religious periodicals and once confessed that his thoughts "ran in Latin."

Mrs. Wickham, notable for her literary efforts in behalf of the church, published the story of a fugitive slave, sexton of the Manchester church from 1840 to 1869. She frequently contributed church news and history to the *Manchester Journal*. One of several hymns she composed was sung at rededication ceremonies August 31, 1892, when the Rev. J. Douglas Adam was installed.

Eminently involved in the affairs of the church for over fifty years was Mary Campbell Munson, wife of Judge Loveland Munson. She

joined the church in 1883 and probably had more influence upon it than any other woman. She taught a girls' Sunday School class over half a century. Her major contribution to the church is a somewhat rare history of the organization done with unusual detail and a distinctive literary style.

The Congregational church rented pews, at least until 1887, for prices varying from five to twenty-five dollars. Between 1925 and 1931 the church interior was redecorated and rearranged with the chancel and choir stalls placed at the center east end of the church against an early-English style stained glass window given by Mrs. J. N. Pew of Manchester and Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. A new Estey organ was also installed. In 1928 the old parsonage (Orvis Inn Cottage 1960) was sold and the new Manse built on the West Road. The church was again rededicated June 2, 1929.

The 150th anniversary of its founding was observed August 26, 1934, when the offertory was sung by Miss Betty Swift, great-great-great-granddaughter of the Rev. Job Swift, organizer and first official pastor of the church. The speaker was the Rev. Dr. Harry Lathrop Reed, president of Auburn Theological Seminary and son of the Rev. Albert C. Reed, pastor of the Manchester church 1878-1884.

Since 1945 the church kitchen has been remodeled; repairs on the steeple completed; a spire-lighting project carried through under sponsorship of the Manchester Business and Professional Women's Club; and a new heating system and organ, the gifts of Mrs. Sarah Given Larson, installed. A set of electronic chimes were the gift of Mrs. George Hoeger in 1958.

Located in the church are the "Anderson Portraits" which were the property of Mrs. W. R. Bullock of New York City, granddaughter of the Rev. James Anderson by his first wife, Mrs. Caroline Bull of Hartford. These portraits are of the Rev. Anderson; Mrs. Anderson; Miss Sarah Aiken, soloist at Mr. Anderson's ordination; the Rev. Dr. Joseph D. Wickham; the Rev. Dr. Rufus S. Cushman; and the Rev. and Mrs. Anderson together taken at a later date.

Pastors of the Congregational church in Manchester have been:

Seth Swift 1776  
Job Swift 1783-1785  
Mr. Bogue 1797-1798  
Mr. Wetmore 1803-1804

James Davis 1804-1805  
 James Farley 1805-1812  
 Amos Pettengill 1813-1816  
 Lemuel Haynes 1818-1822  
 Ed. Rossiter 1822-1823  
 Horatio Parsons 1824-1826  
 Mr. Johnson  
 Mr. Tilden  
 James Anderson 1829-1858  
 Nathaniel Upham 1859-1861  
 Rufus S. Cushman 1862-1877  
 Albert C. Reed 1878-1884  
 Allen Clark 1885-1886  
 Edward P. Wild 1887-1890  
 J. Douglas Adam 1892-1893  
 George T. Smart 1894-1902  
 John Barstow 1902-1906  
 Vincent Ravi-Booth 1907-1909  
 Sidney Perkins 1910-1921  
 John Ten Dyke 1922-1925  
 D. Cunningham Graham 1925-1931  
 Eric Allen 1931-1939  
 Walker T. Hawley 1939-1947  
 Lawrence W. Fairchild 1948-1951  
 Raymond Putnam 1952-1955  
 E. H. Nickerson 1955

### § *The Episcopal Church*

THE Episcopal parish in Manchester was organized during the first settlement of the county by emigrants from western Connecticut and Dutchess County, New York. Some fifteen or twenty families held services in the courtroom of the building then serving as a Court House in the Village, in homes, or in schoolhouses.

A. M. Prindle was an early lay reader. In 1768 and 1772 the Rev. Richard Mansfield and the Rev. Samuel Peters, Connecticut missionaries for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, held services here. The Rev. Gideon Bostwick of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, visited the parish eight times over a seventeen-year period.



The first organization was October 4, 1782 under the Rev. Bostwick, when twenty-four Manchester Episcopalians formed a parish of the Church of England. In 1785 the church voted to hire the Rev. James Nichols. He preached here about a third of the year, aided greatly by warden Samuel Hitchcock, who later moved to Burlington and married Ethan Allen's daughter. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, a traveling Arlington clergyman, held services at the Court House every other Sunday from 1802 to 1825 as well as in other towns throughout the state. From 1825 to 1833 he was resident pastor here.

It should be recalled that under Vermont township grants made by the provincial government of New Hampshire, three rights were set aside for religious purposes—one was for the first settled minister (in Manchester, he was the Baptist pastor, Joseph Cornell); one was for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the missionary organization established under the British flag as early as 1650; and one was for a glebe for the minister of the Church of England. The two latter rights have been the cause of much controversy.

The major portion of glebe in Manchester involves approximately 118 acres lying in the area between the Village and Manchester Center. It is bordered on the west by the West Road and extends easterly across U.S. Rte. 7 into pastureland generally known as the "Munson farm." In early years, this land, through which the Glebe Brook runs, was too low and swampy to be of any great use to the church or town. Later years have proved it to be one of the richest farming tracts in town and now, with modern equipment, it is suitable for the site of a main road. A second section of glebe, consisting of approximately 100 acres, lies west of the West Road at the foothills of Mount Equinox on Three Maple Drive.

For a while the two parishes, Zion in Manchester and St. James in Arlington, continued to receive revenue from glebe, but it was only after long litigation lasting from 1790 to 1815 that the controversy about glebes in the state was settled. The courts decided that except in the two parishes named, which had been in existence since the first settlements, there was no organization eligible to receive the grants. Thus the government of Vermont could resume the title and reappropriate the lands. St. James still receives revenues

in full from its glebe. In order to avoid an expensive lawsuit, Zion church entered into an agreement with the town of Manchester whereby one-half the rents are paid to the town. This agreement is still in effect. The 1901 town meeting released the Episcopal Society from paying rent on glebe land.

The rights of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel were also subject to controversy. In 1794 the Legislature passed a law appropriating these lands to the use of the schools and for the use of the state. This caused much debate, during which the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont became especially indebted to Manchester lawyer Anson Sperry. He recalled that peace treaties signed between the colonies and Great Britain promised that "all private rights and grants shall be respected." The propagation lots, he reasoned, were certainly the property of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

After consulting lawyer Ahiman Miner, the Rev. Bronson, and diocesan authorities, Sperry brought suit and carried his argument to the higher courts. It was tried in Boston with Daniel Webster on the defense. But in 1841 the lots were confirmed to the possession of the Society by the Supreme Court and ordered restored to it. To repossess the land it was necessary for the Society to have the power of attorney vested upon some authority in Vermont. A Board of Land Agents affiliated with the Diocese of Vermont was established and revenues were used for the work of the Episcopal church in the state.

Truman Purdy, father of Mrs. Levi C. Orvis, was the first agent to locate and lease these "propagation lots." According to a speech by Dr. Edmond L. Wyman before the Manchester Historical Society September 4, 1926, there were twenty of these lots in town and Purdy located and leased twelve. Noble Hard of Arlington leased two and Major Jabez Hawley of Manchester the rest. Hawley later became agent until 1873, when he was succeeded by Dr. Wyman, who cared for the lands for fifty-three years. About 1925 the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel voted to give their lands to the Diocese of Vermont.

According to the listers' quadrennial appraisal of 1958 there were eighteen individuals holding glebe land and paying rental totaling \$90.71 to the Episcopal Society. Six property owners paid

\$119.66 on school lots and two paid \$33.33 to the Congregational church.

On July 1, 1806 the local parish was reorganized under the name "Protestant Episcopal Church Society of Manchester."

The deed of May 23, 1820 for the purchase of land upon which to build a church reads in part:

Know all men by these presents that we, Hosea Williams of Danby . . . and John H. Williams of Manchester . . . for . . . forty dollars . . . paid by the Protestant Episcopal Society in Manchester . . . have released to said Society the following tract of land . . . beginning at the southwest corner of a piece of land owned by Samuel C. Raymond and is part of lot no. 57 in the first division . . . containing about 72 rods of ground . . . for the purpose of building and keeping thereon a church or house for the publick worship of God and also all sheds and out buildings necessary for the accommodation of said church. . . .

The church was probably built in 1821, but the dates vary. It was consecrated October 17, 1821 by Bishop Alexander Viets Griswold and received the name "Zion." Though a plain wooden building, Zadock Thompson praised it in his "Gazetteer" of 1824, calling it "an elegant building." The cost was \$4,500.

Mrs. Susan Miner, prominent in local Episcopal history, recalled the ceiling of the new church as being "arched with the pulpit very high and the preacher's head . . . above where the present flat ceiling . . . is. The pulpit was reached by a long flight of stairs. There was a large box stove in front of the gallery . . . which was across the south end of the church. On the bell tower was a tall slender spire, topped with a weather cock. It was the only weather vane in this vicinity."

The church organization was incorporated in 1826 as Zion Parish according to the General Laws of 1797. On June 16, 1828 it was reorganized under Act of the Legislature of 1814.

The belfry was repaired and a new bell hung in 1831. In 1844 the church voted not to use its building for political or secular meetings. By 1861 membership had increased to sixty and the church was enlarged and remodeled according to plans drawn up by Bishop John Henry Hopkins. Special features added were a stained glass chancel and a trinity window. About 1882 other such



windows were installed, including the Bronson and Baxter memorial window. During the summer of 1886 the rectory was built. On June 11, 1939 Zion parish house on land adjacent to the church and rectory was dedicated after being renovated from a private home.

About 1953 the entire interior of the church was renovated again. Construction of an extension to the parish house providing for three church school classrooms easily converted to a dining room area seating 100 was begun in September 1960 at a cost of \$20,000.

An unsuccessful attempt on the part of year-round residents of the Village to move the church there occurred in 1843. Not only did the influx of summer visitors make it seem necessary to have Episcopal church accommodations in that part of town, but the residents also wanted a church which could be attended more easily without the long and sometimes arduous trip to Factory Point.

The courageous spirit behind a later action to acquire a chapel for the Village was Mrs. Levi C. Orvis. She faced much opposition but with the help of her daughters and a few villagers, she was able to raise enough money to buy a lot on Seminary Avenue back of the Orvis Inn property. In 1867 Truman Perkins, contractor, built the chapel for \$5,000. Unfortunately, because of the extremely damp location near a small stream, the building began to deteriorate so much that the trustees declared it unsafe. A new site had to be found.

In addition to these difficulties, the new church also had an unpleasant time politically speaking. Title to the property was held by a private party which refused to transfer it to church authorities. In 1869 Zion church, under the Rev. Germont Graves, resolved to hold services in the Village if the little chapel was willing to meet part of the expense. For reasons difficult to ascertain, the chapel was not willing. In a vain attempt to settle the issue, Bishop Bissell visited Manchester. The Rev. Graves resigned. Even some of the communicants of Zion church resigned to form a new parish under the name, "St. John's." This church was organized in 1870 by the Bishop and the Rev. G. V. C. Eastman was the first pastor.

The issue, however, continued controversial. In 1894 St. John's became a diocesan mission. About 1915 the local freedom of the St. John's congregation was apparently curtailed without what it

felt was sufficient warning or reason. By August 1917 the argument reached such a pitch that Dr. Wyman, George Miner, and Richard L. Makin traveled to Burlington to ask Bishops Hall and Bliss for some restoration of that freedom. It was successful in that a plan was drawn up and signed by the rector, W. H. Bamford, the vestry of Zion church, Bishop Hall, and the people of St. John's whereby \$100 annually would be paid to Zion church. In the winter, when St. John's was closed, the rector would continue to minister to such Episcopalians as needed his help. St. John's is, therefore, part of Zion parish except in July and August, when it reverts to a diocesan mission.

Dr. Edmond Wyman, as a leading layman of Zion church, was most friendly and constructive during these controversial years and earned the respect and admiration of the entire parish. In 1952 a stained glass window at Zion was dedicated to him and Mrs. Wyman.

In 1906 members of St. John's voted to buy property on U.S. Rte. 7 in the Village as a site for their new chapel. The church on Seminary Avenue was dismantled in 1910. Miriam Miner Wolff, in the June 29, 1958 bulletin of Zion church, told the story of the new chapel:

A number of the ladies of the congregation, headed by Mrs. Ahiman L. Miner, had an ambitious thought—a white marble church which would stand forever! With their typical driving New England energy they again put forth all their efforts to accomplish this purpose, but alas! they could not quite reach their goal. One day it was announced that the Cone and Burton grocery store was for sale, located between the Equinox House and what used to be the Orvis home. The store sold almost everything needed—sugar, calico, molasses, cider, fodder, shoes, hairpins, etc.

The price was right, and best of all, possible to achieve. Now came the friction! The "white marblites" against the "grocery storites" "fought the good fight" . . . but it was a losing battle. . . . The grocery store was bought in 1908 and moved across the street, now its present location, and rebuilt [1910]. After the first service . . . someone asked Mrs. Miner how she liked the new chapel. Whereupon she remarked, "I declare, I don't know whether to offer up a prayer or ask for a yard of calico!" However, her children and grandchildren were christened there and the chapel always remained her life's work and greatest interest.

Now to many of us who have the good fortune to live in this beautiful

The present parish serves an area from Wells to Weston and from Danby to Sunderland and includes responsibility for St. Paul's church in Wells.

James Nichols 1785-1786  
Daniel Barber 1790-1794  
Abraham Bronson 1802-1825, 1825-1833  
Freeman Lane 1834-1835  
Alexander H. Cull 1838  
John T. Sabine 1839-1843  
Watson Monroe 1844  
Henry Blackaller 1844-1851  
J. B. Pratt 1853-1855  
Calvin R. Batchelder 1857-1864

George Weeks 1865  
Germont Graves 1869  
George Eastman 1875-1877  
John Randall 1877-1883 Arlington pastor  
with oversight of parish.  
Francis Gilliat 1884 Arlington pastor with  
oversight of parish.  
James C. Flanders 1855-1889 Lay reader  
ordained during pastorate.  
Clarence M. Conant 1890-1891  
Elmer Shoemaker 1891-1892  
James C. Flanders 1892-1895  
Charles S. Lewis 1895-1897  
Robert V. K. Harris 1897-1899  
John Brown 1899-1902  
Hamilton MacNeil 1903-1907  
W. H. Bamford 1908-1922  
William J. Brown 1922-1941



Walter Hendricks 1941-1943  
A. R. E. Green 1944-1950  
Carroll Simcox 1950-1955  
Robert L. Clayton 1955

### § *Church of the Disciples of Christ*

IN 1829 a group of fifteen members headed by Elder Peter Worden Reynolds and his family left the Baptist church at Factory Point to organize a Disciples church or Society of Campbellites in East Manchester. Though rejecting the name of "Campbellites," the denomination was begun by Alexander Campbell, an Irish-American theologian who lived 1788-1866.

Among those in the Manchester group were Oreb and Arad Taylor and their families, all of whom lived in the lane leading east from the Peru road, and the Baldwins and Hogebooms who lived on the east road from Barnumville. Elder Reynolds, the unsalaried pastor, made his living mainly from free-will offerings and from his work as carpenter and cabinetmaker. Believers in baptism by immersion, the Disciples held their rites in a pool below the sawmill, long known as Dean's mill, and in the brook near the lane close to the Reynolds' home.

About 1845 the Disciples built a church which stood on the right-hand corner at the junction of routes 11-30 and the East Manchester road. It has sometimes been referred to as the "White Meeting House." The society, never large, disbanded shortly after 1862 and sold the church to the town for a schoolhouse with the proviso that it always be used for religious services when desired. During an attic cleaning of the school years later, baptismal garments of the Disciples—heavy, black woolens weighted with wires—were discovered.

As late as 1870 another group holding views in regard to the second advent of Christ organized and used the schoolhouse for services. William Blanchard of Chittenden, an Adventist preacher, often ministered to this church until it, too, became defunct.

Some time later, the eighth district schoolhouse, as it was called, was moved south on the East Manchester road. By 1947 it had been

remodeled and was considered one of the town's most modern school buildings. Unfortunately, in December 1947, all but the walls burned to the ground. It has since been made into a private home.

### § *The Roman Catholic Church*

IT IS difficult to establish when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was first offered in Manchester.

When the Diocese of Boston was created in 1810, Vermont came under its jurisdiction. The venerable Father Matignon of Boston visited Burlington in 1815 and found some 100 Catholic Canadians without church or priest. Though Father Migneault of Chambly, Canada, and Father James Fitton of Boston did pioneer work among early Vermont Catholics, it was the Rev. Jeremiah O'Callaghan who was the first resident priest. He was sent to Burlington in 1831, where he remained until 1854, "his influence and pastoral zeal radiating far and wide." In 1843 Vermont Catholics numbered 9,440, but the building of railroads, the development of the marble industry, and the establishment of numerous public works were bringing a steady increase to the state.

The Rev. John D. Daley, believed to have been the first to celebrate the Mass at the Court House in Manchester, commenced to care for missions in southern Vermont in 1837. Before the town had a Catholic church, the Court House was often used for confessions, and for special holiday services. Priests who traveled here especially for Easter and Christmas were Fathers Druon, Pichart, Boylan, Cloarec, Fitzgerald, and Glynn.

In 1868 Father T. J. Gaffney became parish priest at Dorset and Arlington. He also took charge of missions at Wallingford, Mount Holly, and Manchester. The *Manchester Journal* in 1906 said, "This post was a difficult one, entailing long trips from one town to another in all kinds of weather and Father Tom, passing through Manchester of a Sunday morning behind his fast stepping trotter, was a familiar sight to the older residents of the town." Father Frederick Paquet traveled here from Arlington between 1890 and 1896 to assume charge of the parish.

The first Catholic families in Manchester as a rule attended Mass

in East Dorset, which was the center for all Catholics living between Rutland and Bennington. That church was established in 1853. Among those early settlers were John Woods, John Sheehan, Levi Savoie, James Hanley, Barney Howley, Timothy Ryan, Daniel Coffee, and Martin McCarthy. Some 250 Catholics then represented twenty-four families. It was a familiar sight to see special carriages taking Irish maidservants from Manchester hotels and summer cottages to church at East Dorset on Sunday morning.

An edifice for Manchester Catholics was probably being considered as early as the summer of 1893, as in August 1895 a "*Third Annual Pic-Nic and Athletic Games*" was being held at Munson's Grove for the "Benefit of the New Catholic Church."

In 1896 the Rev. John Dwyer arrived as first resident pastor. He lived in the home of a parishioner while construction of the church was undertaken on the corner of Seminary and Franklin Avenues in the Village. The cornerstone was laid by the Very Rev. Thomas Lynch, Vicar General. On September 3, 1896 Father Glynn celebrated the first Mass in St. Paul's church which was considered "a beautiful structure, finely furnished." The Rev. D. J. O'Sullivan preached the first sermon. The Sisters of St. Joseph from Bennington came to the parish weekly to teach catechism. In the fall of 1898 a house was built for Father Dwyer on Franklin Avenue next to the church.

The parish took so much pride in its new buildings that by 1907 all indebtedness had been paid off, including the expense of an organ. Much money was earned by the very popular "Equinox Minstrels" held annually in "St. Paul's Society Hall." Credit should also be given to Father Dwyer, who not only supervised the building of the new church, but as the pastor, was "greatly loved and respected by his parishioners and useful in the community."<sup>3</sup> He was transferred to Ludlow in 1905 from his Manchester and Arlington charges.

The Rev. Bernard Kelly, who ministered here from 1906 until 1916, carried through the original plan to add an extensive sacristy. Construction was begun in April 1911 by the contractor, Hiram Eggleston. In June of that year St. Paul's received a bell, the gift of

3. *Manchester Journal*, January 1905.



Miss Mary B. McKee of Baltimore, Maryland, in memory of her brother, James. The bell, product of the celebrated Meneeley Company of Troy, New York, weighed 750 pounds and was named "Bernard" in a bell blessing ceremony performed by the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Joseph J. Rice.

The only other major renovations inside St. Paul's and on the grounds have been done under the supervision of the Rev. Donald C. Kelly, who came to Manchester in 1953.

Other pastors at St. Paul's church have been :

The Rev. James Thompson 1916-1917  
 The Rev. J. Maillett 1917-1926  
 The Rev. Robert F. Joyce 1926-1927  
     (now Bishop of the Diocese of Burlington)  
 The Rev. P. A. Barry 1927-1928  
 The Rev. Charles Regan 1928-1934  
 The Rev. John Ready 1934-1953

In the early spring of 1924 a group of Manchester women discussed the possibility of forming an organization to parallel and co-operate with the Knights of Columbus. Mrs. Mary E. Malone, as general chairman, secured within a few weeks fifty-nine applications for membership. Court St. Rita number 894, Catholic Daughters of America, was instituted by the officers of Court St. Andrew, Bennington, on June 24, 1924. The first initiation, with Mrs. Malone as Grand Regent, was in June 1925 at the Equinox House in Manchester. There are at present over 100 members of Court St. Rita.

The Holy Name Society was formed in St. Paul's parish in 1957 with eighty-two members. The work of the organization is primarily spiritual.

### § *The Methodist Church*

THOUGH early records of the local Methodist church are incomplete, Manchester first appeared in the minutes of the Burlington District, Vermont Conference, of which it was a part, in 1811. The Rev. Phineas Rice was pastor. The Troy Conference was not set up until 1832. Jacob Beeman ministered from 1833 to 1834 to the spiritual needs of the few Manchester Methodists, who were still not strong or numerous enough to organize a society or own a church.

In 1859 the charge was with Danby and for several years after 1860 it was with East Arlington, as it was again later in 1936 with Sandgate and Arlington proper. From 1871 to 1875 the charge was with East Dorset. Local Methodists attended irregular services which were held in the public hall on the upper floor of Adams Hall at Manchester Center (Battenkill Locker 1961). Warren A. Adams was listed as the first official member in 1860 by the pastor, D. W. Clemans.

Finally some of the prominent Methodists led by James E. McNaughton of Barnumville became determined to complete a society organization and erect a church. The lot was purchased for \$500 from Colonel Mason S. Colburn. Not one of the trustees thought it possible that \$1,500 could be raised, but within a year twice that amount had been subscribed and collected. McNaughton, W. A. Adams, and Andrus Bowen composed the building committee and R. Cook was employed as master builder.

The wooden church with a tin roof was built in 1883. Its outside dimensions were fifty-two feet long by thirty-two feet wide. The tower was square and forty-five feet high. The *Manchester Journal* said, "If the height had been a few feet more, the proportions would have been better perhaps, but a high church is not the thing for this breezy country."

The audience room seated 200 and the vestry was furnished in chestnut and black walnut presenting "a neat and attractive appearance . . . and at a cost of \$3000 . . . a marvel of cheapness." All the local pastors participated in the dedication ceremonies November 15, 1883. The Rev. S. M. Kean, D.D., of North Adams was principal speaker.

The parsonage was built in 1884. For many years the church was in a "reasonably prosperous state" though the pastor was almost entirely dependent on "donation parties" for a living. In 1887 the *Manchester Journal* appealed to the public to support the Rev. G. A. Kerr by attending a church supper in his behalf:

Many kind favors have been bestowed by the liberal hearted people of Manchester upon the little Methodist society of Manchester Center which has enabled them to continue their meetings and pay their preacher the moderate salary promised, and without which it would have been very burdensome if not impossible to support preaching.

The Rev. Kerr received \$112.00 from the supper.

An earlier minister, the Rev. J. C. Butler, was not so fortunate! In the Whipple Collection is an engraved invitation for Mr. Butler:

There will be a donation party and oyster supper at Adams Hall, Factory Point Thursday evening, Dec. 21, 1869 for the benefit of the Rev. J. C. Butler. All are invited to attend. Per order of the Prudential Committee.

After the occasion, the Rev. Mr. Butler inscribed his invitation —“Was a failure.”

On October 22, 1936 the Methodist church celebrated the 125th anniversary of Methodism in Manchester. Active membership at this time numbered thirty-three. Unfortunately, one of the more wealthy benefactors of the church died in 1937 and the organization proceeded to lose strength quickly. Winter services were first cancelled to avoid extra expense. Finally on May 7, 1940 five of the six trustees met at the home of Harry L. Adams with the district superintendent of the Troy Conference, E. F. Tripp. Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Lester Farnum, W. M. Hitchcock, and S. B. Taylor were present. Mrs. Emma Willard was absent.

With reluctance and sorrow they dispensed with the remaining vestiges of the once thriving church. The baptismal bowl and church hymnals were given to the East Arlington Methodist church and the pews and pulpit furniture to Stamford church, Schenectady, New York. Harry Adams acted as agent for the sale of the parsonage to retired pastor E. J. Goodell, and the sale of the church proper. It has since been used as a music studio, art gallery, and funeral home.

Methodist ministers in Manchester have been:

D. W. Clemans 1860

W. A. Miller 1862

Hubbard Farrar

Mr. Harroway 1863

J. C. Butler 1869

C. H. Dunton 1870

W. W. Foster

(first recorded resident pastor—was here six months)

S. Gardner 1877

John Langford 1882-1884



John E. Metcalfe 1884-1887  
 George A. Kerr 1887-1889  
 S. J. Robinson 1889-1890  
 J. M. Appleman 1890-1894  
 H. L. Kelton 1894-1896  
 C. A. Bradford 1897-1901  
 W. D. Spencer 1901-1902  
 C. T. Edwards 1902-1905  
 S. J. Robinson 1905-1907  
 E. S. Morey 1907-1912  
 G. W. Parker 1912-1914  
 W. J. Chapman 1914-1916  
 L. D. Penniman 1916-1917  
 Allan L. Dodd 1917-1920  
 A. J. Hutchinson 1920-1925  
 B. F. Ciegler 1925-1926  
 C. N. Curtis 1926-1927  
 E. J. Goodell 1928-1929  
 Kingman Colledge 1930-1934  
 George M. Folsom 1934-1937

### § *Israel Congregation*

THE first Hebrew congregation in Manchester was formed in October 1921. Religious services were held in the Colonial Theater building at Manchester Depot, the Rev. Kaplan of Troy officiating. Officers elected were H. H. Levin, president; Samuel Greenberg, vice-president; A. Levin, treasurer; N. Kamber, secretary. L. Cohen and N. Kamenetzky were chosen trustees. Among the women of the congregation Mrs. I. Greenberg was elected president; Mrs. H. H. Levin, vice-president; and Mrs. L. Cohen, secretary.

Subsequent places of worship were the Odd Fellows Hall at Manchester Depot and the Opera House at Manchester Center.

The first synagogue in the history of Manchester was opened the week of October 5, 1948, as members of the Jewish faith celebrated Rosh Hashonoh, the opening of the year 5709. The place of worship was established by Mr. and Mrs. Nahum Kamber on the same premises as their home and business at Manchester Depot. Over fifty residents of the town and visitors congregated at sundown on that Tuesday evening for the ceremonial blowing of the sacramental

ram's horn (Shofar) by Noah ("Pop") Kamenetzky, then a patriarchal figure in Manchester. Services were conducted by Samuel Greenberg of Manchester Center assisted by Max Cohen of Rutland and Manchester, president of the services. Friends of all faiths were invited to the new synagogue during Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, for the singing of the Kol Nidre.

Inter-faith co-operation has always been encouraged by the Israel Congregation, now presided over by Nahum Kamber. Though he officiates only on high holy days, the synagogue is kept in use by the Israel Congregation as a repository for their Torah and other religious relics. The richly ornate Torah (handwrought scroll given to Moses on Mt. Sinai) used in the Manchester synagogue was purchased by the local congregation.



## CHAPTER VIII

# Manchester Cemeteries

**N**EARLY all who died in Manchester during the first twenty-five years of its history sleep in unmarked graves. Many interments prior to 1791, however, were made in a burial ground provided for by the original Proprietors in the two-acre "meeting house plot" forty rods long by eight rods wide. This cemetery occupied space now covered by the Court House and that section of Union Street adjacent to it. Many who fought in the Revolution were buried there.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the burial ground, uneven with graves, was not only filled, but also sadly neglected. Though many small headstones still stood, recruiting officers removed them, leveling the ground into a parade when war fever was at its height in 1812. This saddened and horrified the older citizens and the remains of many belonging to more wealthy families were disinterred and placed in a new burial ground at the south end of the Village (Dellwood). In digging the deep drain for the opening of Union Street and also foundations for the various buildings (school-house, tinshop, courthouse, etc.) that have since occupied the hallowed ground, many bones have been found. The latest discovery was in 1937 during an excavation in the Court House basement.

Manchester has few private burial grounds. The largest and best tended is the Roberts family cemetery located in a pasture behind the "Old Homestead" of the Roberts family in the north part of town. Protected by a stone wall and fencing are the graves and headstones of General Martin Roberts, his wife, and various members of their family.



A similarly protected cemetery is that of the Oreb Taylor family in East Manchester. This ground is in fairly good condition, but is somewhat inaccessibly located off routes 11-30 behind the Bonny Peter Motel.

The Purdy family cemetery, located in the south part of Manchester in the area once called "Purdyville" and now called "Purdy Hill," is no longer recognizable. It is fortunate that an earlier historian copied the headstones. The few remaining lie flat in the ground among weeds just north of the stone wall bordering the "Three Brooks" property on the eastern edge of U.S. Rte. 7. Buried here were: "Benjamin Purdy, 1719-1808; Deborah Purdy, his wife, 1726-1804; Sally [wife?] of John Palmer, 1777-1794; Sarah, daughter of Dr. Duncan Dunn, Died 1793 ae 11." Parts of gravestones marked "S. Roberts" and "J. Roberts" can be found as part of the stone wall.

Two family cemeteries are known to be located on the western edge of Manchester. The Seeker family cemetery, difficult to find, is supposedly in Beartown Notch in the gap between Mount Equinox and Bear Mountain. The other, containing members of the Lee, Logan, and Mallet families, has apparently been plowed under. It was located in what is known as the "Munson Pasture" on the side of Equinox north of the Van Buskirk (Callanan) meadows. A third cemetery, also on the slopes of Equinox, is said to lie beyond the Dyer house and quarry west of the Wilcox dairy farm. Nothing is known of its condition.

According to legend, an unmarked Indian burial ground exists in the area of the "Dugway" on route 30 to Dorset.

The Factory Point Cemetery on "Meeting House Hill" was given in 1791 to the Baptist Society for a burial place to be located adjacent to the Baptist meeting house. The meeting house was situated on the westerly side of the present cemetery ground and at that time, on the main highway. (The street past the Episcopal church was not in existence until later.) Donors of the burial ground were Isaac and Jeremiah Whelpley and Timothy Soper.

By 1860 not only had the fences become dilapidated, but the cemetery was being used as a sheep pasture. This situation was soon rectified by an outraged citizenry. Factory Point Cemetery is now cared for by a board of commissioners with town money. In

1938 when all lots were reported full, the commissioners were instructed to purchase additional land. It seemed more practical to build a retaining wall on the western edge of the cemetery. This work, long recommended by the State Highway Department, was done in 1940. Not only did this widen the road and eliminate a dangerous curve, but it also made considerable land available for cemetery purposes. With funds left by Mrs. Clara C. Howard, new fences and a gate were erected in 1939. The commissioners purchased land on the eastern side of the new section of the cemetery and developed a portion on the south side in 1951.

Dellwood Cemetery in the Village, which began with two acres to care for the overflow from the burial ground on the Village green, is considered one of the most beautiful in the state. Between 1850 and 1860 it was enlarged to take in ten acres and also a lot with a small dwelling north of the cemetery which was later replaced by the superintendent's stone cottage. Donors of this land were Mark Skinner of Chicago and Helmus M. Wells of New York, who presented it to an association which would improve it. On November 9, 1865 the Dellwood Cemetery Association was incorporated by Act of the Legislature, the first officers being Augustus G. Clark, president, and S. G. Cone, secretary-treasurer.

About \$6,000 was subscribed for beautification of the grounds, the design being laid out and supervised by Burton A. Thomas of Albany, New York. Dellwood, which Sarah Cleghorn found "more like an Italian garden than a village burying ground," was primarily Judge Skinner's gift to Manchester. Not only was it largely established by his means, but he gave frequent and careful attention to its supervision during his lifetime. His special gift to the corporation in its early days was the beautiful main entrance adorned by choice Italian sculpture. One is the statue of "Mourning" and the other, a statue of Gabriel impersonating "Resurrection."

Mark Skinner was also responsible for the erection of a home for the superintendent and greenhouses in which to grow flowers and plants for the cemetery and for a regular florist trade. The *Manchester Journal* noted April 11, 1901 that the cemetery, which usually shipped a large quantity of flowers, especially lilies, to the city for Easter, was losing "two or three hundred dollars . . . owing to the lack of sunshine." Clifford B. Graham, the present superin-

tendent, succeeded his father and has been at Dellwood for over thirty years.

In his will Judge Skinner endowed the cemetery with \$10,000. He, his sons, and other members of the illustrious Skinner family now rest in Dellwood. The avenues and walks wind artistically over more elevated ground into the valley beneath and along the beautiful brook. Under a bluff, with a broad carriage way in front, is the receiving vault surmounted by bronze griffins. The grounds continue to receive painstaking care.

A card index of headstones can be found in the town clerk's office. This index includes early Manchester people buried in the Dellwood and Factory Point Cemeteries as well as in several of the family plots.





## CHAPTER IX

# Education

### § *The Public Schools*

**A**N outstanding characteristic of English colonial settlement in America was early provision of educational and religious facilities in every community. Manchester was no exception.

At least one school was here in 1776, as a road was laid out that year bordering the glebeland and making a turn from the east to the south "at the schoolhouse." Where the schoolhouse was is not clear, but it may have been in the vicinity of Way's Lane.

Five school districts were established in June 1783 and nine in September 1791. Two more were formed by the town meeting of March 12, 1805 with another set off in 1841. In 1843 there were thirteen districts and one more was created by the town meeting of 1848. In 1849, 1859, and 1860 sixteen districts reported scholars. This seems to have been the maximum.

Consolidation and abolition of various districts diminished the number to the thirteen shown on the map of Manchester in Beers' *Atlas of Bennington County* published in 1869. One of these was a fractional district shared with Sandgate in the southwest corner of the town. The district in the Beartown area was also shared with Sandgate for a while.

Each of these school districts was a sort of municipal entity in itself, each having its own taxes, grand list, and officers. These were moderator, clerk, collector, treasurer, auditor, and prudential committee—one man who had general charge of the district's affairs.

Winter and summer schools were held, sometimes designated as "man" or "woman" schools depending on the sex of the teacher.

Money was raised by tax on the grand list of the district and a payment of one cent a day by parents for the attendance of their children. This was known as money raised "on the scholar." Town money derived from the rent of school lots was distributed to the districts according to the number of scholars in each. As far as can be ascertained, there were only three such lots in Manchester.

In Manchester, the town had considerable influence in school affairs in spite of powers centered in the individual districts. The town meeting of 1787 voted to rent school lands, and a special meeting that December voted an extension of time for payment of school lot rents to James Sweet and Elijah Benton because their barns burned.

A town meeting of 1790 appointed trustees of school lands, and one in 1796 voted to elect a school treasurer to take charge of money belonging to the schools. Thaddeus Stevens was elected. That meeting also chose a committee of one member from each district to number the scholars therein. Perhaps that did not work, as a town meeting February 8, 1798 voted to have the trustees take the number of scholars in their respective districts and make a return to the school treasurer. The town meeting of March 31, 1800 voted to have one school treasurer, indicating that there may have been more than one previously or the word "one" may have been inserted in that particular vote.

The 1802 town meeting voted to have a committee of one in each school district to regulate the districts in town if necessary. Trustees for the school districts were also chosen at town meetings. They were provided for in Vermont's first school law, October 22, 1782—"Each town shall appoint one or more meet persons within each district . . . who together with the Selectmen of the town shall be trustees of the schools in such towns." These trustees had the power to lease school lands and real estate and to administer such funds as bonds, leases, and securities pertaining to the schools. They apparently had nothing to do with district tax monies. Two trustees were chosen for the south school district on the main road in March 1806.

The town as a whole attempted to accept some financial respon-

sibility for the schools in 1821. A meeting December 24 voted one-half cent on the grand list for the support of common schools. Later it was voted to reconsider that decision. A three-cent tax was voted March 12, 1827.

From district clerks' record books, district meeting warnings, and an 1873 superintendent's report comes a fair picture of district school administration previous to 1892.

In 1853 District No. 3 (Manchester Village) collected money "on the scholar" for a total of \$23.11 for the winter school and \$24.44 for the summer school. Money on the grand list for the winter school totaled \$31.15 and for the summer school, \$53.19. The winter school, eighteen weeks ending April 1, 1854, was taught by Julia Ann Sargent. Her wages at \$3.12 weekly amounted to \$56.16. Apparently the district paid her board at \$1.15 a week. The whole expense of the school that term was \$94.22. There was \$51.17 public money to meet this expense, leaving a balance of \$43.05 to be raised. The tax was made to cover expenses of collecting runaways, abatements, and deficiency of the summer school bill viz.:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| One cent per day on scholar totaling          | \$23.11 |
| Three and one half per cent on the grand list | 31.15   |
|   | <hr/>   |
|   | \$54.26 |

At a meeting of District No. 3 held at the schoolhouse on the last Tuesday of March 1861 at seven o'clock in the afternoon, officers were elected and it was voted that the summer school for the ensuing year be taught by a female. It was also voted that the entire expense of supporting the school for the next year be raised on the grand list, except the teacher's board, for which the prudential committee was authorized to raise sufficient tax. It was voted that the teacher board "around" among the families sending scholars in proportion to the attendance. Total expenses for the school for the year ending March 31, 1861 were \$236.32. The tax raised on the grand list was 15%.

Warnings in 1858 and 1869 contained articles to see if board for the teacher should be raised on the grand list or on the scholar. Apparently, as has been noted, it was the custom to raise part of school expenses by a tax upon parents according to the attendance



of their youngsters. The first school law of 1782 sanctioned this method by calling it a "subscription" in proportion to the number of children sent to school. Such a subscription, however, was as legally collectible as any tax.

In 1893 when the single town school district became effective, the school tax was \$.25 on the grand list of \$10,911.09. The total tax was \$.90 and the schools cost a total of \$3,438.30. Teachers' pay came to \$2,588.25 and there were 513 children of school age.

The school tax inched upward, increasing along with the grand list until it reached \$1.00 in 1923, below which it never dropped. The grand list that year was \$24,961.08 and the total town tax rate was \$2.10. In 1945 the tax began to register wider gains, moving from \$1.16 to \$1.36 with the total tax changing from \$3.25 to \$3.61. Taxes jumped in 1950 from \$5.50 to \$6.25; the rise in school tax was from \$1.76 to \$2.94. In the meantime, the grand list had advanced to \$28,445.03. In 1952 the school tax made \$3.00 and four years later, \$4.10. The grand list then made a new high of \$30,737.25. After a year's respite at \$3.77 the school tax went over \$5.00 while the grand list dropped off. While a \$5.00 tax is a far cry from the \$.30 tax of sixty years ago, such is also the case with all school costs which the taxes must meet.

Teachers' salaries, which totaled \$2,588.25 in 1893, were \$76,300 in 1959. An article in a town meeting warning some years ago was to see if voters would authorize more than \$24 to Burr and Burton Seminary for secondary school tuition. In 1905 the figure was \$65; in 1960, \$385. Fortunately, during this time when expenses and the taxes to meet them have so increased, the grand list representing the town's wealth has tripled as the base for necessary taxes.

A legislative act of 1782 for school administration provided that school districts could be created, abolished, or united with another by vote of the town. Towns could also set a citizen of one district into another. A perusal of town meeting records up to 1892 reveals that Manchester voters certainly availed themselves of the powers granted by that law and the town's school districts were administered according to its provisions.

The individual school districts were a source of considerable neighborhood friction and must have been more or less of a municipal nuisance judging from the frequency with which town meetings appointed committees to report on the advisability of altering them.

This problem appeared on the agenda of twenty-three meetings between 1793 and 1884. Recommendations from such committees were frequently dismissed, but sometimes followed. The town meeting of March 5, 1872 voted to discontinue District No. 16 by annexing it to No. 3. A meeting, March 7, 1876 at Adams Hall, Factory Point, voted to abolish District No. 14 and divide it between Districts No. 8 and No. 12.

Families were permitted to change from one district to another, sometimes due to crowded conditions or to a case of neighborhood squabbles. A meeting in March 1795 voted to permit three families to be connected to the middle district on the main road and a meeting March 29, 1796 voted that Philow Sperry and James Sidway be added to the same school district.

In 1870 the Legislature passed a township school system law permissive in nature, but from 1870 to 1892 only forty towns changed from the district to town system and fifteen of those reverted to districts. Manchester citizens consistently voted down the town system beginning in 1871 with a vote of forty to fifty-eight. The town system was voted down in four later meetings, but in 1892 the Legislature abolished the old district system and made the town system governed by three directors compulsory.

In 1893, in conformity with the law, Manchester elected three school directors setting their pay at \$2 a day for time actually spent. They were H. Eggleston, elected for three years; W. H. Bundy, two years; William Hicks, one year.

Meetings, when the district system was in use, were held in late afternoon at five or six o'clock. Warnings for District No. 9 meetings from 1828 to 1830 were concerned with problems of repairing the old Center school or building a new one. An article in the 1835 warning was "to take into consideration whether the condition of our school cannot be improved by employing an additional teacher or a new one as the District may think best."

The warning for a school district meeting of the Mill District in 1818 indicates procedures in what was later known as the Factory Point or Center District:

#### NOTICE

The inhabitants of the Mill or Middle School District are hereby

Warned to meet at the School House in said District on Friday the 30th instant at 5 o'clock P.M. for the following purposes viz:

1. To choose a moderator to govern the meeting.
2. To choose a District Clerk for the year ensuing.
3. To choose a school committee for the year ensuing.
4. To choose a District Collector for the year ensuing.
5. To make necessary arrangements for a Winter school and do other business proper to be done at said meeting.

By order of the Committee, Chester Clark, District Clerk.

One would judge by the number of petitions addressed to the clerk of the district to call a meeting that there was no regularly appointed time. Frequently articles of the warnings followed purposes indicated in the petitions. A petition to Aaron Baker, Clerk of the District of the Mill School at Factory Point, November 23, 1841 proposed:

To see if the inhabitants of said District will have a Woman School in addition to the Man School, and appropriate an equal share of the public money for the same, and also to see if the District will vote to raise money on the Grand List for the payment of schooling of children in said District who are unable to pay for themselves.

An excerpt from the clerk's book of District No. 4 (West Road) concerning the March 18, 1878 meeting provides another sample of school business of that period. After officers were elected, it was voted to have seven months of school, three in summer and four in winter.

Voted to raise 20c on the dollar. Voted to get 10 cords of 16-inch wood, beach, birtch, and maple to be got by the first of August, to be got by Henry A. Carpenter at \$1.45 per cord, to be measured by Albert Whitten, to be put in the wood house and corded up. Board bid off by J. G. Whitten at 170 cts. a week. The Summer school to begin the first day of May. Winter school to begin the first of November.

However peculiar and unique these old-time school procedures may seem in comparison with today's practices, it should be remembered that they were clearly spelled out in that first law of 1782 and reaffirmed in succeeding legislation. Manchester's administration of its schools seems to have faithfully followed the prescrip-



tions of early state legislation. Between 1764 when first settlement began and 1782 there was no outside guide nor any record as to the practices followed. It is probable that they did not differ much from those later recorded and it is quite likely that the law of 1782 was based on existing procedures.

The office of town superintendent was created by the Legislature of 1845. These superintendents—as many as three could be chosen—were elected in town meeting. The Manchester meeting, March 3, 1846, elected three superintendents of the common schools—Henry Blackaller, William A. Burnham, and John Pettibone. They were re-elected the following year, but in 1848 only one, Burnham, was elected. The law provided compensation of \$1.00 a day, to be paid by the town. Town superintendents were frequently ministers. Their duties under this law were:

1. To assume the supervisory duties of the prudential committee.
2. To visit each school once a year.
3. To perform the duties generally pertaining to the office.
4. To examine teachers and grant certificates.

Records of teachers examined and certificated had to be deposited with the town clerk. A typical report in May 1850 read:

Miss Susan S. Roberts has this day been examined and found qualified to instruct in Orthography, Reading, Writing, Geography, Arithmetic, and English Grammar, and having given satisfactory evidence of good moral character, she is hereby licensed to teach school in the town of Manchester for the term of one year from this date.

W. A. Burnham,

Superintendent of Common Schools for the Town of Manchester.

Received for record and recorded by me May 30, 1850

E. Harris, Town Clerk.

This process of certification was in effect until 1889. In 1885, eighteen such examinations and certifications were recorded by the town clerk.

The formation of unions of two or more towns for purposes of school supervision became permissive by law in 1906. In 1912 Manchester, Dorset, and Sunderland composed District No. 38 with Harry B. Dickinson, superintendent. Supervisory unions were made mandatory in 1915 and the position of town superintendent

was abolished. Manchester joined with four other towns, Arlington, Sunderland, Shaftsbury, and North Bennington. John D. Whittier was superintendent. His report in the 1918 Town Report was the first to appear in the annual town report. Others have been published in the *Manchester Journal* and at least one was published as a pamphlet in 1873.

In 1925 Manchester was in the Bennington North District with Dorset, Pawlet, Rupert, and Sunderland under B. P. Hamlin, superintendent. He was succeeded by Edwin L. Bigelow in 1926. Sandgate, Danby, and Mt. Tabor joined the group in 1935 with the name changed to Bennington-Rutland District, as three towns of the district were in Rutland County. That district is the same now with Arza Dean, superintendent. He succeeded Bigelow, who retired in 1957 after thirty-one years of service.

Medical inspection in the schools was voted in 1912, dental clinics in 1938. As town appropriations for the Manchester Welfare and Nursing Association increased, appropriations for medical inspection and dental clinics ceased. Those functions have been under the management of the association since 1946.

Manchester schools have been fortunate in recent years for support received from the Parent-Teacher Associations, which after the establishment of the central elementary school in 1950 united as one organization for the town.

Figures of school enrollment over the years are interesting, though their degree of accuracy is somewhat doubtful. For one thing, limits of legal school age have varied:

|      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 1795 | four years to twenty   |
| 1797 | four years to eighteen |
| 1865 | four years to twenty   |
| 1897 | five years to eighteen |
| 1915 | six years to eighteen  |

When as many as sixteen individual districts were reporting enrollments prior to 1893, frequently some were missing from the records. Statistics of later years did not distinguish between elementary and secondary pupils. So taking these factors into consideration, the degree of uniformity in enrollment is rather surprising. The average number of pupils listed for sixty-six years since 1832

is 463. The 1959 enrollment was 369 elementary and 144 secondary for a total of 513. In twenty of those sixty-six years, enrollment was in the 500s. The only year with any great variance was 1851 when 616 pupils were listed.

The history of the school buildings themselves may be of interest. On March 1, 1870 the clerk of District No. 3 was requested to warn a meeting to see what action the district would take toward procuring a new site for the schoolhouse and removing the schoolhouse thereon. The district was to vote a tax for defraying the expenses. The schoolhouse then stood between the Court House and the Congregational church. Eventually the school was moved to the lot on which it is now located, though at first it was set on the east side of the lot bordering on the West Road. F. H. Orvis provided the lot and paid for moving the school. He wanted to improve the view from the Equinox House. The schoolhouse was sold in 1952 and is now a private home.

The superintendent's report for 1873 sheds some light on the sort of environment that many of the early schools provided:

Some of the buildings in this town, if not all that could be wished, are very good. Those in Districts No. 3, 6, and 9 are convenient, comfortable and in most respects fitted for the use to which they are put. The one in No. 4 is not much inferior to any of the above, but for lack of five or six dollars worth of repair upon the underpinning and plastering, it has been very uncomfortable during the winter. Those in Nos. 2 and 10 have a trim external appearance and might be made as inviting within by a small outlay. Of the houses in the remaining districts you must excuse me from speaking, for I can find nothing pleasant to say of any one of them.

The superintendent continued his report by noting that though there was a marked contrast in the schoolhouses themselves, there was a striking uniformity in the matter of furniture.

A chair, a teacher's desk, and a broom are generally considered indispensable to the school room, though I find some houses where even these are luxuries too expensive to be enjoyed. But beyond this meager outfit, only one, even of the best of the school buildings, has been indulged. District No. 3—all honor to its intelligent liberality—has provided itself with an excellent set of wall maps. With this exception, any apparatus for assisting the teacher in the work of instruction will be sought in vain through the entire town.



Additions were made to the Village school (No. 3) until in 1914 it became a three-room building. A four-room building was constructed at the Mill District (Center) in 1829 to replace the original one located near the cemetery. The 1829 building was sold in 1869 for \$85 and was moved to a site near the home of Harry Adams. It was known for years as Adams Hall and is now the Battenkill Locker, though it is now in a slightly different position on the property. A new school was built in 1869 which was remodeled and enlarged about 1887 to become the four-room Center school in use until 1950.

The next addition to the school system was the well-constructed, two-room Depot or Merriman school which cost \$9,092.98 in 1912. This gave the town four one-room rural buildings—Barnumville, East Manchester, Hollister, and West Road; the two-room school at the Depot; a three-room building at the Village; and the four-room school at the Center. The teaching staff numbered thirteen.

This arrangement of seven scattered schools had, by 1940, become so obsolete when compared with changing concepts and practices in elementary education that agitation began for something better, centralization of the town's schools into one modern plant. Such a possibility had, in fact, been discussed at a public meeting May 22, 1913. In 1944 the school board, having been requested by the P. T. A. and other organizations to investigate the situation with centralization in view, felt justified in reporting to the town meeting its findings and definite recommendation that construction of a central building be undertaken.

A meeting June 5, 1945 authorized the school board to purchase the Dyer lots at Manchester Center as a building site and provided \$1,000 for the preparation of preliminary plans. The school board engaged the services of the firm of Webber and Ericson of Rutland to do this.

Various authorizations and appropriation of funds were voted by succeeding town school district meetings. The climax was a special school district meeting vote, April 29, 1949, for a central elementary school, a gymnasium-auditorium, and community center. The meeting then proceeded to adopt Article 2 of the warning with more than the necessary two-thirds vote by Australian ballot for a \$400,000 bond issue to finance the project.

The contract for construction was let to the Swanburg Construction Company of Manchester, New Hampshire, August 30 and work started early in September. The job was completed sufficiently for the new school to open in September 1950. Some of the classrooms were short of chalk boards for a while and the contractors did not leave until February 1951 owing to delays in construction of the gymnasium. The bond issue was purchased by Halsey Stuart Company at a very favorable rate of one and three-fourths per cent. The bonds are being paid off at the rate of \$20,000 a year with the last payment due in 1969.

Dedication exercises were held Sunday, April 1, 1951. Governor Lee Emerson and United States Senator Ralph E. Flanders were present and Commissioner of Education A. John Holden delivered an appropriate address.

The 1953 Legislature passed an act providing retroactive state aid to towns which had completed major school construction projects since 1947. According to the formula provided in the act, Manchester received over \$89,000, which was used to build a four-room addition to the new building. This was completed in 1954 making a total of seventeen classrooms for the new school, one of the finest and most modern educational plants in Vermont.

### § *Private Schools*

THE earliest private school in Manchester, probably the one Zadock Thompson said was built in 1818, was Ira Hill's Academy. Hill graduated from the University of Vermont in 1808 with a master's degree and did some tutoring before coming to Manchester, but little is known of his school or its location.

It undoubtedly included children of elementary school age and it is known that Levi C. Orvis, who was twenty-one when he came to Manchester, also attended. At a public exhibition February 10, 1820 Hill told his female students that they

possessed minds as precious as those of the rougher sex. A new day is dawning which will soon disperse the thick mists of prejudice and the vapors of ignorance which . . . long enveloped in obscurity the active genius of the fair sex.

Hill's entire address was published "at the particular request of his scholars." He later taught in Maryland, where he died in 1838.

About 1840 a private girls' school was located in a small building behind the present Elizabeth Page Harris house. It was operated on a Congressional grant of \$5,000 by Delight Sargeant Boudinot, missionary widow of a Cherokee chieftain and sister of Manchester lawyer, Leonard Sargeant. It is said that the school failed because Mrs. Boudinot was not only a poor businesswoman, but she was also so unpleasantly pious that young children were afraid of her.

In 1847 the "Manchester Classic Institute" published a catalogue of teachers and some sixty women students from Manchester and vicinity. Many of the faculty and all the "Board of Examination" were also women. One was Mrs. Joseph D. Wickham, wife of the headmaster of Burr and Burton Seminary. It is not known where or for how long this school existed, but among the subjects taught were "Greek, Latin, Instrumental music, modern languages, painting, drawing, and elementary English."

Between October 31 and November 8, 1850 a "Teacher's Institute" was held in Manchester by the state and under the direction of William A. Burnham, superintendent of common schools and assistant principal of Burr and Burton Seminary. An impressive list of Manchester citizens managed this institute, which attracted thirty-two men and thirty-six women as students. Teacher training classes were held in the chapel at Burr and Burton Seminary.

During the 1860s a number of "select schools" operated in Manchester. One was run by Burnham's sister on the second floor of the schoolhouse which then was located next to the Court House. Another was taught by a Mrs. Hinchman in the Music Hall. In the ballroom, on the entire upper floor of the Roach (Burnham) house, a Miss Bacon from Massachusetts taught some forty or fifty young ladies. Susan Miner remembered that some six of her companions at the school were from Factory Point. They walked the distance both ways and pupils provided their own chairs and tables.<sup>1</sup>

Two other Village schools were Miss Ann Wheaton's in the old Raymond house (now gone) and one in the Germain cottage with three pupils taught by "a lady from Thetford." On November 11,

1. *Manchester Journal*, September 1923. Recollections of Susan S. Miner.



1862 Miss L. E. Frost, formerly of the Seminary faculty, opened a girls' school in the office of the Rev. James Anderson. Promising that "no pains will be spared to make the school both profitable and pleasant," Miss Frost planned to receive primary scholars at reduced rates. She was agreeable to finding board in the Village for "students from abroad." Tuition for the twelve-week term was as follows:

|  |        |                |        |
|--|--------|----------------|--------|
| Common English branches                      | \$4,00 | Higher English | \$4,50 |
| French lessons and class in<br>pronunciation | 2,00   | French (extra) | 1,00   |
| Crayoning and pastile                        | 3,50   | Penciling      | 2,50   |

A singing school was opened in October 1863 by Dr. R. Button, a Factory Point dentist. The evening meetings were held in the Village at the schoolhouse "for the instruction of the young of both sexes in the rudiments of sacred music." The cost was \$1 for twelve lessons (provided twenty-four signed up) and "incidental expenses of light and fire" were defrayed by the scholars.

At Factory Point, a Miss Leverett of Windsor kept a "select school" in the east room of the old schoolhouse.

Burr and Burton Seminary was the only private school operating in Manchester from 1870 until September 1938, when the "Out-of-Door School" of Sarasota, Florida, leased the James Wilbur estate for its summer activities. Founded about 1924 by the Misses Catherine Gavin and Fanneal Harrison, this co-educational boarding school was fitted to the individual needs of its children, who ranged from nursery age to the tenth grade. While in Manchester, the faculty and staff of twelve were directed by Harrison Raoul, a nephew of Miss Harrison and one of the school's original pupils. Needing more room in which to expand, the school moved to Massachusetts in the fall of 1940.

It was immediately succeeded by the Windsor Mountain School, which had been established in Windsor, Vermont, in 1939 by Dr. Max Bondy and Mrs. Gertrude Bondy. George A. Roeper was headmaster. The school was founded as an exchange institution for one under the same direction in Gland, Switzerland. Thus it was called "an educational institution of broad international connection." It had a faculty of six and a student body numbering about

thirty-five with an even larger group attending the school's summer camp. The Windsor Mountain School left Manchester in September 1944 upon expiration of its lease.

The most recently organized of Manchester's private schools is the Mount Laurel School, Incorporated. It is located in special quarters in the Manchester Elementary School. The purpose of this school is to enable, by extensive drill and intensive teaching, children in the 51 to 70 I.Q. group to become self-supporting and self-respecting citizens. The first tentative formation of the organization, then called the "Manchester School for the Mentally Retarded," was in March 1958. The women's group of Zion Episcopal church, the Manchester Parent-Teacher Association, and elementary school teachers were chiefly responsible. The school was incorporated July 1958.

The first classroom opened in September 1959 with fifteen children under Mrs. Evelyn Beattie, teacher. The expenses of the school are only partially underwritten by the Department of Special Education, State of Vermont, and thus the school has become a real community project with many local organizations and individuals donating most generously to its support. The Manchester Welfare and Nursing Association has assumed responsibility for the children's health.

### § *Burr and Burton Seminary*

ABOUT 1793 Joseph Burr arrived in Manchester from Hempstead, Long Island. By virtue of a forceful personality and systematic business methods as a merchant and toll gate custodian, he accumulated before his death in 1828 an estate of \$150,000. Dr. William Jackson of Dorset is credited with having suggested that Burr leave his money for a seminary in which young men preparing to enter the ministry could be educated. However, Samuel Canfield of Arlington, also feeling a school in Manchester would benefit the surrounding area, is said to have told Burr, "You made your money off Vermonters, and by gum, you ought to leave it here."

Whereupon Joseph Burr decided to test the mettle of Manchester. He left \$10,000 for the institution provided the legacy could be matched within five years by \$10,000 more through public sub-

scription. Otherwise, his money was to go to the American Education Society. The will was hotly contested by many other beneficiaries including Middlebury, Dartmouth, and Williams Colleges, but the Supreme Court sustained the legacies in full.

The first Board of Trustees, faced with collecting the money, were Alexander Proudfit, William Jackson, Charles Walker, John Whiton, James Anderson, William Page, Josiah Burton, Milo Bennett, Cyrus Munson, John Aiken, Nathan Burton, Myron Clark, and Nathan Bottom. Governor Richard Skinner was the first to sign the list of pledges which, through the unceasing labor of the trustees, eventually grew to the required amount.

Contributions came from as far away as Middlebury. Money-collecting agents went from church to church and community to community in search of additional funds. One, in a mild state of despair, wrote the trustees:

I find that the only way to make the people do anything at all is to go to their doors and hammer it into them. Most of them are grossly ignorant of the subject. They scarcely know there is such a place as Manchester in Vermont. I find that it is very slow hard work but the only way is to take it patiently and persevere.<sup>2</sup>

The school was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly in 1829, but it was not until March 1831 that the trustees, with success in sight, unanimously voted to go ahead and purchase the land and erect buildings. The problems of construction were many and they began immediately. When the firing of the bricks was a disastrous failure, the trustees decided to build the school of limestone taken from a quarry northwest of the seminary land.

On November 28, 1832, four months before the expiration of the five years stipulated in Burr's will, an appraiser inspected the buildings and valued them at \$11,250, thus securing the bequest. The interest of the permanent fund was to be used in providing education for "poor, needy, and pious youth preparatory to their entering theological studies or to their being received under the charge of the American or other Education Society."

The school was named "Burr Seminary" in honor of the bene-

2. Letter written by C. Shumway, March 1831. Property of Burr and Burton Seminary.



factor and thus became Vermont's first privately endowed academy. The Rev. Lyman Coleman, first principal, was largely responsible for preparing the school for its opening, May 15, 1833. He came here from Belchertown, Massachusetts, in July 1832 for an annual salary of \$600.

During its first twenty years, Burr Seminary was exclusively a boys' school. But by the middle of the century, an insistent and increasing demand in Manchester and neighboring towns for some provision for the education of girls had grown. William A. Burnham, foresighted Seminary teacher, was responsible for the admission of the first girls to class after having presented the matter to the trustees. Sixteen attended the Seminary in 1849, making it the first co-educational school above the elementary level in Vermont. Fifty-six attended the following year, so large a number that the first preceptress, Miss Cornelia Orvis, was hired.

Josiah K. Burton of the first Board of Trustees believed that girls were entitled to the same educational opportunities as boys. Though a man of little schooling, Burton understood the value of a thorough education and he was the largest contributor to the fund earlier raised to secure Burr's bequest. By the terms of Burton's will on his death in 1853, Burr Seminary was left \$5,000. Additionally, \$6,000 was left to be used in establishing separately a girls' seminary in Manchester provided certain conditions were met. In default of these, both sums were to go to Burr Seminary and that is what ultimately happened.

In 1855, however, in recognition of Burton's generosity and of his wish to encourage the education of girls, the trustees admitted girls on terms of equality with boys, at the same time changing the corporate name to Burr and Burton Seminary. Of the money received from Burton's estate, \$5,000 was added to the permanent fund and the rest was used to pay off indebtedness and the cost of additions and alterations required by "a ladies' department."

Feminine additions to the curriculum—instrumental and vocal music, drawing, and painting—were made in 1856. Tuition for girls under twelve was a dollar less. Before they roomed in their own separate hall at the Seminary, girls were quartered in the headmaster's house, with Village families, or in their own homes.

The old catalogues advertised the Seminary's virtues well:



The Rev. Dr. Joseph Dressler Wickham (1797-1891), highly esteemed headmaster of Burr and Burton Seminary, 1837-1853, 1856-1862.



The Manchester, Dorset, and Granville Railroad ("Mud, Dirt, and Gravel"), 1902-1918.



The Village green (1861) showing the brick church, Court House, and schoolhouse before it was moved to the West Road location.



The apparent seclusion of Manchester in a picturesque valley with fine mountain scenery and a healthy moral atmosphere, makes it a desirable place for the education of youth. The town has been noted for the intelligence, culture, and high-toned character of its people and its freedom from the usual temptations to vice found in most places its size. The Seminary is located near enough to enjoy town privileges while still being far enough removed from its temptations. It is a settled principle with the trustees and officers of this Seminary that its success under God will depend upon the character of the instruction and discipline . . . and the reputation which it shall acquire before the public.

Until 1834 students rose at 4:30 a.m. for prayers; in 1835, 5:00 a.m. Largely responsible for setting the early high standards of the school was Dr. Joseph Dressler Wickham, twenty-two years headmaster and twenty-five years trustee. Wickham was eminently intellectual and able with adolescent boys. A minister, author, and professor, he retired as headmaster in 1862 but never lost his interest in the school. He was deeply admired by two generations of alumni.

His celebrated assistant principal, English teacher William A. Burnham, came to Manchester in 1835 with little formal education. Twenty-five years later, Burnham was not only superintendent of Manchester schools, but also a holder of honorary degrees from Middlebury and Dartmouth. Upon his untimely death in 1860, he became the first and only Seminary teacher to have a monument erected to his memory by his students. This is at Dellwood Cemetery.

One of the Seminary's many student organizations, the "Philomathic Fraternity," which was in existence about sixty years, was incorporated under "An Act Incorporating Literary and Scientific Organizations" May 5, 1837.

The gray stone Seminary with its old belfry reflecting early nineteenth-century ecclesiastical architecture imparts a feeling of security and endurance. Yet many are the physical changes which have occurred during its 132 years:

- 1862    wooden addition at southwest corner of building.
- 1873    small lighted windows exchanged for present larger ones.
- 1885    louvered windows and blinds installed; steam heat and water piped in.

- 1908 electric lights installed.
- 1913 dedication of gymnasium building designed by ex-Seminary student, Phelps Wyman, and built from subscribed funds.
- 1916 fire escapes added.
- 1926 dedication of Snyder room in headmaster's house in memory of Frances Snyder, preceptress, and Marcia Snyder, teacher; ground broken for athletic field following gift of \$10,000 by W. B. Pettibone, alumnus and trustee; second tennis court given by family of Edward S. Isham; landscaping and planting done.
- 1928 presentation and dedication of eight-foot Warner and Swasey telescope belonging to Robert Todd Lincoln by his widow; also a duplicate of the small observatory that housed the telescope at "Hildene."
- 1940 throughout this decade additional dormitories and a building for home economics were acquired on Seminary Avenue—Cross Cottage, Swift House, and Towsley House. Since home economics has been discontinued, Towsley House is used for faculty housing. Swift House has been sold.
- 1955 dormitory rooms on third floor of the Seminary building replaced by the Frank C. Osborn Memorial Laboratory for chemistry and physics, and by new quarters for commercial subjects.
- 1959 as the result of a major improvement and expansion fund campaign, new heating plant and sprinkler system installed; fire-tower added to rear of building; renovation of office, classroom, and kitchen space to enlarge and improve facilities; addition of library space, lavatories, acoustical ceilings, etc.

In 1874 Loveland Munson was instrumental in founding the Alumni Association which still meets annually during Commencement. The group was once exceedingly active and strong due to the efforts of Mrs. Loveland Munson and Mrs. Edward H. Swift, who for many years was secretary-treasurer of the group. Dr. L. H. Hemenway also was a leading spirit in keeping the Seminary's proud position in the community. Paul H. Bullock, teacher of commercial subjects, in 1961 is completing his fortieth year of service, undoubtedly a record in Manchester schools.

In 1900, shortly after the advent of football at Burr and Burton, the Athletic Association was formed. Physical education had already entered the curriculum.

In 1929 the centennial of the Seminary was celebrated with an

historical pageant written by a distinguished alumna, Sarah N. Cleghorn. It was performed by a score of students and alumni.

As the Seminary functions as both a private school and the town high school, the matter of tuition has sometimes been a thorny one. In 1905 the amendment to school law requiring towns to furnish advanced pupils with high school instruction to the amount of \$24 for tuition per year caused considerable discussion. In Manchester, the Seminary was able to furnish such instruction, while the higher grades at the Center elementary school (at that time, sometimes referred to as the Manchester Center High School) did not come up to proper standards. The town had to decide whether it was better to bring that school up to standard "or to furnish such instruction to all pupils beyond a certain grade at the Seminary."<sup>3</sup> Many of the pupils already attended the Seminary because they preferred to do so despite the fact that they were obliged to pay their own tuition. Thus 1905 became the first year the town paid the three-term tuition, which was \$32. Students were required to take an entrance examination.

In 1921 a special meeting was called to see if the town would pay the Seminary \$90 per pupil. This was voted down by ten votes. The same argument occurred in 1923 when the Seminary again charged \$90, still thirty more than had been previously voted. The voters were forced to decide if the town should continue to give Manchester students the benefit of a free high school education as had been the custom or if parents or pupils should be required to pay the balance. It was argued that such a course as the latter might deny some child the privilege accorded by nearly every other American town. Two votes were taken. The first lost 120-105. The second voted 99-90 to pay the extra \$30 per pupil. In 1959 Manchester voted to pay \$370 tuition per pupil as against the \$325 required by law.

In February 1951 Burr and Burton Seminary was elected to institutional membership of the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools because it fulfilled specifications, scholastic and otherwise, of "a very high standard." Classes are kept small so each student may receive a maximum amount of attention. From

3. *Manchester Journal*, February 23, 1905.





William W. Lee 1920-1923  
Madison C. Bates 1923-1927  
Beacom Rich 1928-1931  
Ralph Howes 1931-1943  
Elbert H. Henry 1943-



## CHAPTER X

# Transportation

**B**EFORE the railroad was built through Manchester in 1852, the major mode of public conveyance was the stagecoach. One early line ran from Manchester to West Townshend via Winhall, Bondville, and Jamaica. The stage left Factory Point Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays upon arrival of the 10:00 a.m. train and returned Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to connect with the train at "1½ o'clock." G. W. Cotton was proprietor of the line in 1862, followed by P. H. Kelly four years later "with a new coach and four horses to accommodate the public." This line was in use as early as 1839 and probably earlier.

One stage ran daily to Dorset, Rupert, Pawlet, and Granville, while another ran to Peru, Landgrove, Londonderry, Weston, and Chester. The *Troy Sunday Budget* was quoted in the *Manchester Journal*: "Women prove themselves efficient for almost any occupation nowadays. A Factory Point, Vermont woman occupies the position as stage driver between Pawlet and Manchester. . . ."<sup>1</sup>

Probably the best-known stops for stages in Manchester were in Barnumville at the Brick Tavern at the foot of the Peru Turnpike and in Robertsville, a small community then located in the area of the Old Homestead. Robertsville was headquarters of Martin Roberts, owner of a Boston to Saratoga stage line that eventually failed financially.

Manchester's most popular stage driver was John Stockwell, who,

1. September 20, 1883.



at the age of nine, drove a yoke of oxen to Troy. In the 1870s he hauled marble from Mount Aeolus in East Dorset to Factory Point with teams of four to six horses. For nearly half a century, Stockwell carried mail and passengers from the Depot to the Village. During the summer, he also drove a coach-and-four up Mount Equinox several times a week. O. G. Felt, Manchester shoemaker, also drove parties along the same mountain route. He tied a log to the rear axle of his wagon to brake it on the way down.

During the first Ekwanok Country Club days, golfers rode to and from the grounds on long buckboards drawn by four horses. By 1902 the first "horseless carriage" made its appearance in Manchester. One guest described the effect of these machines:

In the height of the season, a party renting a house opposite us arrived in a bright red automobile with shining brass lamps. This apparition was too much for the nerves of some horses, so one morning all from the Equinox stables were lined up on the sides of the street and the red car was paraded up and down in front of them, forerunner of the hundreds that were to follow. It was pitiful to see the terror of some of the poor animals . . . how soon their day would pass.

In 1902 Manchester had a transportation crisis. On November 6 a mass meeting was called at the Court House by Charles F. Orvis, Theodore Swift, and George Smith to consider and take action on a legislative bill which had been introduced in the Legislature by J. W. Fowler of Manchester. It was called "An Act to Incorporate the Bennington County Traction Company." This was to be an electric railroad running from Manchester to Granville. Its charter had been petitioned for by a large group of citizens who felt that such transportation would be more beneficial to the people than a steam road. The thought of Manchester's beautiful drives and streets ruined by car tracks and trolley and telegraph poles was more than the innkeepers and summer people would stand. They protested with a volley of letters to the *Manchester Journal*, which, in its next issue on November 13, urged the town to regain its senses: "The summer business has a good start here now and is rapidly growing and it would be extremely foolish to do anything that will have a tendency to keep people away."

A unanimous vote was thereby passed opposing the granting of

the charter unless the bill was amended to exclude all highways, streets, and land of the Village from its provisions. This was essential for the future of Manchester even if the company had no immediate plans for laying tracks there. D. K. Simonds, Theodore Swift, and Charles Orvis were appointed to remonstrate in Montpelier and instruct Fowler to oppose the bill as it stood. On November 20 the announcement came that Manchester would have no trolley road. The town, with a sigh of relief, settled for steam and the "Manchester, Dorset, and Granville Railroad."

An auto-bus began operating July 1916 between Dorset and Bennington, leaving each town four times daily. In Manchester the stops were at Hard's drugstore and the Colburn House. Sometime before 1935, Ward's Bus Lines, Inc., ran a daily trip from Rutland to Bennington. This company sold out to the Vermont Transit Company of Burlington in February 1936. Two trips daily each way passed through Manchester and as passenger trains were removed from service on the Rutland Railroad, new buses were added. The Vermont Transit Lines' schedule today offers five departures south from Manchester to Albany, New York City, and connecting points, and five north to Burlington with three going even further north to Montreal.

### § *The Railroad*

THE principal railroad which has run through Manchester is the Rutland. Originally the line was the Western Vermont Railroad Company incorporated November 5, 1845. Myron Clark of Manchester was the first president of the board of directors. Built between 1850 and 1853, the section between Rutland and Manchester was completed in December 1851, and the first regular train to Rutland ran in January 1852. By 1861 the Western Vermont had fifty-nine miles of track, having been successful in building south to the Vermont-New York line where it connected with the Troy and Boston Railroad. A branch between North Bennington and Bennington opened in 1854.

The Western Vermont reorganized in 1867 and changed its name to the Bennington and Rutland Railroad. It was consolidated with the Lebanon Springs Railroad (Bennington to Chatham, New

York) in 1870 to form the Harlem Extension Railroad. The Central Vermont took the Harlem Extension under lease from 1873 to 1877 when the lease was abandoned and the properties went to the mortgage trustees of the two original companies. A reorganized Bennington and Rutland Railroad took over the Vermont road only, operating it until its lease to the Rutland Railroad in 1900.

During the summer of 1871 one through train ran to Manchester daily from New York City. According to F. H. Orvis, it traveled at the rate of twenty miles per hour. The valley, so dependent on the summer guests coming from the city, was hardly satisfied with these accommodations. Orvis, editor of the *Manchester Journal* and owner of the Equinox House, wrote, "Nine hours and three-fourths from New York to Manchester is better than 'going afoot' but not exactly what we hoped for from the 'great northern' through route to Montreal."

He urged the Harlem Extension to extend more and faster trains north of Lebanon Springs and he threatened several alternatives. A branch of the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad, he said, could be built from Shushan, New York, to Arlington and Manchester. Even a line of stagecoaches over the eighteen miles between Shushan and Manchester could connect with steamboats or the fast New York trains of the Hudson River Railroad. This was no idle notion on the part of Orvis. In July 1871 he sent a well-patronized stage line of four-horse coaches into action from the doors of the Equinox House to the New York-bound trains at Shushan. The Harlem Extension Railroad quickly put on another train to alleviate the situation. Though service was still barely adequate, Orvis canceled his stage line.

Si Clone (Andrus L. Bowen), the local journalist, once remarked that in the early days of the railroad, it was expected that a station would be built at the foot of Union Street to be closer to the hotels. But "as the cars would not stop, and as there were no nets to catch the passengers when they jumped," the plan failed and the "almost endless job of filling in the mud flats" along the Battenkill began.

In the summer of 1887 new trains were added on Saturday afternoons and Sunday nights, making the traveling time between New York and Manchester six hours. These additions were a great convenience for summer people and a big boost to the valley's economy.



Despite fare reductions, ticket sales for August at the Depot came to \$450 more than during the same month the previous year.

In April 1900 the Bennington and Rutland came under the Rutland Railroad and plans followed to build up the line with fast passenger trains from New York through western Vermont to Canada. This could not be done until wooden bridges were replaced with steel and the balance of the track laid with heavy steel rails. A new station at Manchester Depot was also promised. On June 13, 1901 purchase of the Chatham and Lebanon Valley Railroad by the Rutland gave the railroad an alternate route to New York City via the Harlem River Division of the New York Central System.

Si Clone took a dim view of the whole economic picture in the *Vermont Advance*, November 3, 1900:

The marble interests here have not done much this season and the prospects for the future are not very bright. Vermont, being so one-sided in politics, there is no chance . . . to compel the railroad to give us living rates. It seems Vermont must become a wild west of underbrush or be made into a game preserve and the inhabitants become game wardens for the rich summer guests and sportsmen.

By 1905 the "Green Mountain Flyer" via the Hudson River Railroad was bridging the distance between New York and Manchester in less than six hours every day. The night sleeper was the "Mt. Royal." There were also four mail trains daily to and from Troy and Rutland except Sundays, when only one operated.

About this time, the Rutland Railroad surveyed parts of the east mountain with the thought of running a new line of road into the vast timberlands. In November 1912 an application was made to the Legislature for a charter for a railroad from Wilmington to Manchester via Somerset, Stratton, and Sunderland. This would have been an extension of the existing railroad from Wilmington up the mountain to Somerset. Probably the only railroad ever to meet with much success on the east range of mountains was the Rich Lumber Company Railroad, which ran up Lye Brook Hollow from the Richville section of Manchester to the top of the mountain. It continued across the top of the mountain past Bourn Pond to the Winhall River with spurs into various locations, a total distance of approximately sixteen miles.

Construction of this standard-gauge railroad was begun early in 1913 using largely imported Italian labor and company equipment from its preceding operation in Wanakena, New York, namely one Shay-gearred Lima locomotive, ten flat cars, twenty-four special logging cars, a log loader, and a snow plow. In 1914 a second locomotive was shipped directly to Manchester by the Lima Locomotive Works of Lima, Ohio. Each locomotive was equipped with steam and air brakes and each car with hand and air brakes. The grade up the mountain was six per cent approximately. There was one long high trestle and several medium trestles with a number of small bridges and much crib work and fill.

The railroad was laid with sixty-pound rail purchased from the Delaware and Hudson, the Lehigh Valley, the New Haven, and the New York Central railroads. The ties were largely imported from Canada. A fully equipped machine shop was constructed and maintained with a master mechanic, Henry Schoolmaster, in charge.

The railroad operated without accident from 1914 to 1919 when on completion of the lumbering operation, the Rich Lumber Company began its retirement from business. In 1919 a disastrous fire destroyed both the saw and chip mills. By late 1920 the railroad had been dismantled and the locomotives, cars, rail, and other equipment had been sold in a favorable market. Claude A. Rich was treasurer and general manager of the company from 1912 to 1920.

Two other steam railroads in this vicinity were proposed. Before January 1911 a charter was granted to the Mettawee Railroad, which would run from Dorset to Lake St. Catherine. This road was supposedly backed by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Ground was broken in December 1911. During the same year, a charter was asked for the Taconic Valley Railroad Company. The incorporators of the proposed road, which would run from Bennington to Dorset via Glastenbury, Shaftsbury, Arlington, and Manchester, were presumably the same Bennington men behind the Mettawee line.

The *Manchester Journal's* reaction to these proposed railroads was cynical: "Governor Mead has signed the Taconic Valley Railroad bill . . . and now there are charters enough for roads through this valley to make Manchester as central a point as Chicago—if all the chartered roads are put through."

The cynicism was justified. Nothing came of either road.

The flood of November 1927 swelled the Battenkill to several times its normal size. Though Manchester was on the edge of the storm, railroad tracks were undermined in many places within the town and even more greatly to the north and south. Train service was not resumed for nearly three weeks.

The first snow train, consisting of one baggage car, one coach, and five sleeping cars carrying 166 passengers, arrived at Manchester Depot January 22, 1938. An informal "Manchester Snow Train Bulletin" was issued on board:

You will arrive at Manchester Depot at 5 a.m. However, please do not get off at that early hour. It will be too dark and you will feel too comfortable under your warm blankets. Anyway, your busses will not be at the Depot until 6:45 a.m. . . . Skiers who are guests of Houses #6, 7, 9, 10, 11 may . . . remain on the train until it reaches East Dorset. . . .

By 1946 the Rutland Railroad Station at Manchester Depot was kept open for skiers and the public using the night trains throughout the winter. In 1948, in order to conserve fuel, the last two accommodation trains were removed from the schedule, leaving as the only passenger service, north and southbound trains in the mid-afternoon, and early morning sleepers. Though intended as temporary, these changes very shortly became permanent. The Green Mountain Flyer and the Mt. Royal continued until 1953, when, because of a strike, all passenger service was discontinued. Freight service alone remains available.

Late in 1950 the Rutland Railroad reorganized as the Rutland Railway Corporation with a new board of directors. The new corporation marked the termination of a long receivership which had begun in 1938.

### § *The Manchester, Dorset, and Granville Railroad Company*<sup>2</sup>

MANCHESTER'S own railroad, which existed fourteen years, was the single track "MD&G," affectionately known as the "Mud, Dirt, and Gravel." Extending 5.09 miles from Manchester Depot to the

2. All quotations in this section, unless otherwise indicated, are from "Manchester, Dorset, and Granville Railroad Company," G. Murray Campbell, August 1, 1951.



South Dorset quarries, "it lured young and old for a round trip of cinders and marble dust. Its whistle was as much a part of town life as the village clock."

In 1908 the *Manchester Journal* said editorially:

No enterprise of any kind has given the people . . . better accommodations, four trains a day each way by daylight. You may take for comparison the Rutland R.R. You cannot get out of town southbound until noon. Over our "baby line" you can go to its terminus and have time for a little business twice in the forenoon. It is not a large crew but from Clarence Curtis, fireman, Henry Blanchard, engineer, and Charles Williard, conductor, you have just as much attention as if you were a multimillionaire in a Pullman palace car. A thousand tons of marble go down the MD&GRR some days worth a good many thousand dollars.

The MD&G was originated primarily to carry marble from the Norcross-West Marble Company's South Dorset quarries to a finishing mill at Manchester Depot. It was incorporated "June 21, 1902 with Capital Stock of \$350,000 of which \$72,500 was issued, and a \$260,000 Five Per cent bond issue, which was subsequently paid off in 1930." Work on the track began November 9, 1902, and the distance between the Depot and the quarries was quickly completed. The first traffic went over the road in July 1904.

Never did it extend farther to reach Granville, New York, sixteen miles beyond, or even the one and a half miles farther to the Village of Dorset, although continuing rumors ran high. . . .

The largest number of cars owned were ten flat cars which shuttled between the quarry and the mill. The locomotive pushed the coach ahead to the quarries, and trailed the empty flat cars behind. Returning, the locomotive backed to Manchester, pulling the loaded cars, with the coach at the end. There was a small shelter shed station at Manchester Depot, one at South Dorset, and one at the quarry terminus.

There is little doubt that the MD&G was "important in the life of Manchester and Dorset." Its passenger service "drew excursionists, as well as riders who, when automobiles were more uncommon than now, were inconvenienced by the help of five miles in their journeys to Dorset. Life on the MD&G had its little dramas—fighting snows, unruly streams, and trespassing livestock." But the biggest drama, still recounted in Manchester homes, happened on the morning of July 6, 1906:

Two empty Rutland Railroad flat cars, preceded by one M.D. and G. flat car, were placed on the 4,000 foot Plateau or Upper Quarry siding of which the grade was so steep that the locomotive was taxed to handle them. The two Rutland cars were placed under the quarry derrick. The M.D.G. car was ahead, and it was planned to use the hand brake and let this car down the grade a short ways to the woodpile, to load after the two cars of marble had been loaded. It was customary to hold the cars on the siding with a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " cable attached to the uppermost car and looped over a 3" holding pin on the ground. Two large blocks of marble, each weighing over 25 tons, had been loaded on the forward Rutland car, and one block of 30 tons had been loaded on the uppermost car. Another 20 ton block was being hoisted to load, and while it was about 45 feet in the air, the hoisting engineer noticed the cars moving. In the confusion which followed, no one attempted to set the hand brakes; so the hoisting engineer tried to drop the suspended block on the car to disable it, but was prevented from giving a full blow because he had to stop the drop to permit laborers on the car to scamper. He did allow the lowering block to hit the rear end of the last car hard enough to damage it, but the cars continued to move slowly forward. The hoisting cable was allowed to run out about 250 feet, but there was little more. The brake on the hoisting drum had to be applied, and the taut cable then pulled the marble block off the car to the ground. The runaway cars were on their way to Manchester.

The regular 11:00 a.m. trip of the passenger coach southbound had left about 20 minutes earlier, and aboard were 40 school children with accompanying teachers, along with other passengers. When the loaded freight cars broke away, a telephone call was quickly made to Manchester Depot, where it was learned the passengers had arrived and unloaded about four minutes before. The engine had gone to the enginehouse, and the passenger coach was standing on the main line. Possible death and disaster had been averted. The runaway cars, with the empty M.D. and G. flat car ahead, hit the coach and tore it from its wheels, landing it atop the flat car. Only a window in the coach door was broken. . . .

The completion of the New York Public Library in May 1911 "stopped the principal traffic for which the railroad was built," though other notable buildings were constructed of the Norcross-West marble from South Dorset.

"The Vermont Marble Company acquired the Norcross-West Marble Company and with it the MD&G on May 20, 1913." Marble orders had dropped off and the new owner apportioned what re-

mained "to more economical quarries." Operations at the Depot ceased and the South Dorset quarries closed in 1917. There were intermittent periods of considerable traffic before common carrier operations ceased June 1, 1918.

Long afterward, the tracks remained. In 1924 and 1925 Pat and Tom McCormick "operated a flanged wheeled motor truck over its rusted rails to haul marble from the Kent-Root Quarry at South Dorset for shipment from Manchester Depot to the Green Mountain Marble Company at West Rutland. Silence then again took over, and in 1934 Forrest Bros. of Bennington bought the rails for scrap. The last gasp came when certificate of dissolution was granted February 28, 1936."

### § *Aviation*

PROBABLY the first passenger plane to stay any length of time in Manchester belonged to Captain Stickney of Bellows Falls, who, as the representative of an airplane firm, came here to look over possible sites for airfields. He felt the Fair Grounds could be fixed temporarily for a field, but the grounds were neither good nor large enough for a permanent port. This discovery was probably made in 1920 when he first carried passengers at the Manchester Fair and his plane made a forced landing in a swampy spot. The nose of the plane was run into the ground so badly that further flight was impossible.

Stickney finally selected grounds north of the Carsden Inn on Union Street, which included land belonging to the Equinox Company and to Mrs. Fannie Strong. These sites would have been suitable had certain work been done on the land. However, apparently nothing was accomplished until 1928, when Mrs. George Orvis took the first steps toward a tangible field.

As head of the Equinox House, Mrs. Orvis was interested in a proper landing place for summer visitors as well as in making Manchester an important link in the air route from New York to Montreal. Her two advisors were Dean Ivan Lamb, one time British Royal Air Force ace; Beauregard Sweeney; and Alexis Dawydoff of Air Associates, New York City. They chose a large acreage east of the Battenkill and the Equinox House and high enough so the



hotel could be seen. In May, when workers began to level the land, Mrs. Orvis had a mammoth sign with letters ten feet high—MANCHESTER, VERMONT—painted on the roof of the Taconic section of the Equinox House with a large arrow pointing toward the proposed landing field.

Jack Fox, Equinox Links pro, was in charge of the great amount of work to be done to get the field in shape. Brush had to be cut, stones picked up, holes filled, and the surface hardened. Fortunately the land was situated on a vein of gravelly soil which by keeping constantly dry met an essential condition of airfields. The runway was constructed upwards of 2,000 feet long and more than 100 feet wide with a second runway from the main one to the hangar. The latter was built sixty by eighty feet in order to house six planes. Gas tanks were also installed.

Officially opened July 4, 1928, the field became Vermont's eleventh actual airport. The first plane to land was flown by W. C. Billings, head of the Boston airport. The *Manchester Journal* quoted the *St. Alban's Messenger* July 5: "While other communities in Vermont are talking, haggling, and arguing over airports, their cost, their advantages, their drawbacks, the town of Manchester-in-the-Mountains is up and doing."

In the summer of 1931 the Equinox Company leased the airport to the Greenfield, Massachusetts, Flying School. There must have been a lull in operations, for two years later a special floor was laid in the hangar and the building was used as a dance hall. This situation did not last, however, for the State Airport Supervisor of Vermont in February 1934 proposed that the Village of Manchester lease lands for an airport for five years with the privilege of purchase. The government would then consider the project as part of the C.W.A. program and allot funds for the purpose of constructing an airport. The Village then leased the Equinox Company's airport land for five years at a rental of \$1 annually with an option to buy the land for \$5,000 at the end of the lease period. This was exclusive of the hangar already built.

By June 1935 the Manchester Airport was approved by the Vermont Motor Vehicle Department for commercial work after one of the runways had been widened, a second built, and the field enlarged and graded. Harry P. Bingham, Jr., planned to use the air-

VERMONT STATE Co. C, 14th Reg. Volunteer Militia.

PRIVATES

first Lieutenant.

Second Lieutenant.

**HENRY D. YOUNG.**

MISS EUGENIE ST. JE

CHARLES A. PIERCE, Orderly.

George H. Phillips, 2.

William Campbell, 3.

John C. Connelley, 4.

George W. Knights, 6.

JOHN VAUGHAN

GEORGE COLLEER

WILLIAM A. BLACK.

A KIRK SYKES.

WARREN, SHELTON.

GEORGE F. LITTLE

### Musicians.

SMITH JAMESON.

HENRY A. WYMAN.

Warriner—DANIEL H. CRANDALL.

Col WILLIAM T. NICHOLS  
 Lt Col CHARLES W. ROSE  
 Major NATHANIEL D. HALL  
 Surgeon L. H. SPRAGUE  
 Asst Surgeon S. D. ROSS  
 Chaplain W. S. SMART

Organized at Manchester, Vermont,  
August 28, 1862

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MUSTERED INTO THE

United States Secret Service

At Drottningholm, Vol. Cb 21, 146.

Adjutant HARRISON PRINDLE  
 Qr Master CHARLES FIELD  
 Sergt Maj EDWARD P NASH  
 Q M Sergt WM WILKINMAN, Jr  
 Com Sergt JED RICHARDSON  
 Drum Major M A WILLIAMS

Company c, Color Company, 14th Regiment. Men and officers from Manchester, Rupert, Winhall, Dorset, and Arlington. Five wounded; two killed in action.





Shay locomotive on wooden trestle brought trainloads of logs down Rich Lumber Company railway from the top of the east mountain to mill in Richville, 1914-1919.



Rich Lumber Company mill, 1912-1920.



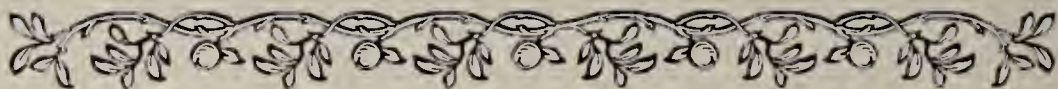
port during the summer as a base for North Eastern Air Service, and two planes, a second pilot, and a mechanic were added. In October 1940 the Manchester Airport was one of thirty-five in Vermont listed by the Civil Aeronautics Administration of New England airports that should be considered in a major program of expansion for commercial and defense purposes.

In 1946 F. M. Greenwood leased the airport from the Equinox House for charter service as a branch of the Southern Vermont Flying Service of North Springfield, Vermont. Charles Hawkins was manager. In January 1949 the airport received the "Good Airport Operating Practice Certificate" awarded by the National Aeronautics Association. It was one of twelve public and private airfields in Vermont to be so honored. Also in 1949 Captain William Odom, holder of the world's record in flight from Honolulu to Oakland, landed at the Equinox Airport.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the field was celebrated October 4, 1953. Hawkins, still manager, was master of ceremonies. Those present, who had also been at the first opening, were Charles H. Grant, a Pennsylvania aeronautical engineer and inventor, and Maynard Carlisle, Manchester flier and mechanic.

A group of men from the Manchester area interested in furthering local aviation organized in 1959 as the Equinox Flying Club.

Two other known airfields have existed in Manchester. During the summer of 1930 Miss Mary L. Beckwith, whose hobby was flying, constructed a private airport and hangar on her estate. In 1932 the farm of Arthur Hayes, north of the Center on U.S. Rte. 7, became the site of Hayes Field. The State Motor Vehicle Department inspected the grounds and approved them for passenger flying. Later approval was given for student flying and its use as an emergency field. Runways about 1,600 feet long extended in four directions. Despite the lack of a hangar, three planes were at one time stationed there.



## CHAPTER XI

### Post Offices and Postmasters

THE first post office in the township was at Manchester Village, though that section of the town was not an incorporated village when the office was established in 1793. The postmasters were:

Abel Allis, appointed shortly before March 20, 1793  
Joel Pratt, Jr., appointed shortly before July 1, 1803  
Nathan Burton August 17, 1803  
Calvin Sheldon October 4, 1814  
Leonard Sargeant January 1, 1819  
Walter I. Shepherd January 16, 1826  
Henry Robinson January 10, 1833  
Levi C. Orvis November 19, 1833  
Darwin Andrews July 1, 1841  
Levi C. Orvis July 13, 1843  
William H. Andrews May 23, 1849  
Fowler W. Hoyt May 10, 1853  
William B. Burton February 11, 1863  
David K. Simonds June 16, 1875  
Charles F. Orvis March 30, 1893  
David K. Simonds April 17, 1897  
Robert J. Orvis June 2, 1913  
Otto R. Bennett March 7, 1922  
Frank Regan April 15, 1934  
Mary Malone October 27, 1936  
Geo. F. Lawrence, Jr. December 31, 1950

The office has been located at various points in the Village depending somewhat upon the business of the postmaster at the time. The first parcel post stamp was sold in December 1912 to Mrs. Ahiman L. Miner, then ninety-one years old and probably the oldest resident of the Village.

Under the date of January 1, 1828 the following petition was made to the Honorable John McLane, Postmaster General of the United States:

Your petitioners, citizens of Manchester in the County of Bennington & State of Vermont beg leave to represent:

That in said town on the post road leading from Manchester to Rutland in said state & from said Manchester to Charlestown, N. H. and more than a mile northeasterly of the post office now established in said town is a Village called "North Village in Manchester" containing more than thirty families, three retail stores, two tanneries, one Iron Blast Furnace, two woolen factories, and one distillery, all in actual operation besides shoemakers, cabinet and chair makers, blacksmiths and other merchants—and that the citizens of said Town living easterly and Northeasterly of said Village would find great convenience in the establishment of a Post-office in said Village.

The signers of the petition recommended Levi Church Orvis as a suitable person for the office of postmaster. Apparently the petition was well received, as the Factory Point post office was established June 25, 1828. However, Benjamin Roberts was the first postmaster instead of Orvis. Other postmasters in this second Manchester office were:

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lyman Harrington  | November 2, 1837  |
| Moses Harrington  | August 31, 1840   |
| Augustus G. Clark | May 10, 1841      |
| Lyman Harrington  | July 13, 1843     |
| Cyrus A. Roberts  | June 7, 1845      |
| Augustus G. Clark | August 2, 1861    |
| Robert Ames       | September 8, 1870 |
| Charles K. Young  | July 17, 1885     |
| Frederick W. Cook | October 23, 1889  |
| William H. Bundy  | December 7, 1889  |
| Charles K. Young  | March 31, 1893    |
| John H. Whipple   | April 17, 1897    |



Carl A. Mattison    January 19, 1914  
John H. Dimond    December 28, 1922  
Louis F. Martin    August 16, 1935  
Louis F. Martin, Jr.    August 19, 1948  
William C. Nawrath    October 1, 1953

The name of the post office was changed to Manchester Center on November 15, 1886.

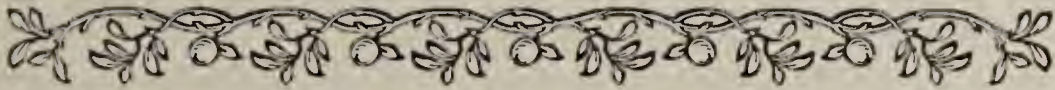
The third Manchester post office was established in 1871 in Barnumville. Sixty people lived in Barnumville at the time and the post office also serviced thirty other families outside the community. Horace D. Baldwin was appointed postmaster July 10, 1871. Others were Julia Baldwin, May 4, 1882; Julia M. Baldwin, May 14, 1883; Julia M. Gleason, May 5, 1885. The post office was discontinued in 1894 and its business transferred to Manchester Depot.

The last post office established in Manchester was at Manchester Depot with John C. Blackmer the first postmaster. He was appointed July 6, 1874. Succeeding postmasters and the dates of their appointment were:

Leonard Pettibone    March 11, 1893  
John C. Blackmer    April 28, 1897  
Charles A. Bourn    November 20, 1907  
Herbert S. King    January 19, 1914  
Charles A. Bourn    December 4, 1922  
Donald L. Mattison    July 26, 1935  
Lois W. Mattison (Acting)    May 23, 1944  
Donald L. Mattison    June 8, 1946

On January 27, 1949 something new in post office service began with the establishment of a highway post office. One of the first routes in New England was established through Manchester. On these well-equipped vehicles mail is sorted en route as it was formerly in railway mail cars before the cessation of passenger train service made the new project necessary. In addition to these highway post offices, mail is also brought by ordinary trucking service.

Manchester's volume of mail, when divided among the three post offices, gives each a Second Class rating. They vary some, however, in the volume handled.



## CHAPTER XII

# Manchester's Utilities

### § *Fire Protection*

THE first step in providing fire protection for the steady increase in valuable property in Manchester was the organization of fire districts as mentioned in the chapter on town government. Fire District No. 1, embracing the area of the Center and the Depot, was laid out in 1877. Fire District No. 2, contained in the present Village limits, was organized the following year. The next step was the organization of fire companies.

The Pacific Fire Engine Company, composed of the Pacific Fire Company and the Pacific Hose Company, was organized in District No. 1 March 12, 1877. In 1880 it had about sixty members with C. A. Bundy as foreman, and in 1885 it had seventy volunteers. Any able-bodied Manchester citizen seventeen years of age could become a member by a majority vote after signing the bylaws and paying a \$1 entrance fee.

The company had one Button hand engine with which water was pumped from the stream. In 1887 the tannery whistle was used for a fire alarm. The Center firehouse was originally by the river near the Colburn House and was moved to its present location in 1921. In January 1924 it caught fire and the roof burned off.

After the construction of the water system, the Pacific Engine Company resolved, on November 26, 1884, to transfer all rights, title, and interest in the engine house, engine, hose, and all fire apparatus as it existed to Fire District No. 1 of Manchester. No

other entries appear in the records until March 9, 1896, when the company voted to buy a new hose cart to be kept in the Center firehouse. Any remaining money was to be used for uniforming a hose company provided one was organized within twelve months.

Some doubt was expressed as late as 1902 as to the necessity of continuing the organization, as hydrant service was available. But the company continued. It was reorganized June 15, 1907 with Harry L. Adams as secretary, a position he still holds under the present Manchester Fire Company. Earl Marsh was made chief engineer of the district in 1924. Maynard Carlisle was chief from 1932 until 1951 and Lynford Bourn has held the office since November 1951.

The Undine Fire Company was formed in Fire District No. 2 on January 2, 1877. The engine was named "Undine." According to records, the nine members of the hook and ladder company and nine members of the hose company grew to eighty-three. However, by October 18, 1884 thirty-three had left town or the fire district and five had died.

The organization was more complex than the Pacific Company, for in the years from 1876 to 1886 it was composed of Hook and Ladder Company No. 14 and Hose Company No. 14. Equipment included one hose cart, one hand engine, and one hook and ladder truck. Among its officers were:

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| First Foreman            | A. J. Hurd       |
| First Assistant Foreman  | C. F. Orvis      |
| Second Assistant Foreman | George Swift     |
| Secretary                | A. J. Black      |
| Hose Foreman             | E. H. Fowler     |
| Assistant                | J. N. Hard       |
| Hook and Ladder Foreman  | H. Eggleston     |
| Assistant                | Harry Gray       |
| Pipeman                  | Joseph W. Fowler |
| Assistant                | John Boynton     |

Apparently a firehouse was built before 1885 though its location is unknown. Four sets of overalls were kept there for the use of members working around the place.

As the Village is located on high ground, no major stream for



water supply is available as at the Center. Wooden cisterns, therefore, were installed in the area, one of 1,000 barrels' capacity and others of 100 barrels' capacity. Some were furnished with water piped from a spring near Burr and Burton Seminary.

The Undine Company was always ready to go to Factory Point if help was needed. The *Manchester Journal* proposed:

It would be well if the telegraph operators in both villages would remain at their posts at the commencement of a fire in either village and thus give early word if help is likely to be needed. Either village is always ready to help the other.

There seems to be no record of when the present engine house was built or moved to its location. In a photo of buildings along the Village green the firehouse appears to be standing nearer the street, but the picture bears no date. Manchester Village bought a new fire truck in 1926 and various alterations were made in the firehouse to accommodate it. The roadway was also widened, a cellar put under the building, and a heating plant installed.

At a special meeting in November 1926 the Village decided an eight- or ten-man crew on permanent call should man the truck. Special telephone gongs were installed in their homes.

The two fire districts had always co-operated, so it did not take many years after the idea was broached to weld the two fire departments into one organization. Town meetings from 1925 to 1931 voted \$300 to maintain a force of paid firemen. In subsequent years fire protection payment was left to the discretion of the Selectmen until 1953, when the town meeting voted to authorize the Selectmen to establish and maintain a fire department as provided by state law.

Since the new arrangement has gone into effect, a Maxim 750-gallon pumper has been purchased; the fire alarm signal system has been improved; a new utility truck bought; and a more acceptable pay scale for practice and actual labor at fires set up. The streets in both villages have been named, which is a help in locating fires more easily. The next major item of improvement may be the construction of more commodious quarters for housing apparatus.

### § *The Manchester Water Company*

ORGANIZATION of the Manchester Water Company to supply Manchester adequately with water was undertaken to meet a demand for better fire protection.

In the early 1890s the community realized that the facilities of its two fire districts were not sufficient to provide proper protection for the steadily increasing amount of valuable property. This realization was probably deepened by a disastrous fire of December 23, 1893, which destroyed the business properties along the east side of Manchester Center's Main Street.

In the winter of 1894, John Marsden, a contractor working out of Utica, New York, came to Manchester and apparently saw the opportunity for a successful business venture. He entered into a contract May 22, 1894 with Fire District No. 2 for the purchase of springs on Mount Equinox and rights of way which the District had acquired for the construction of a water system. In July of the same year he made a similar contract with Fire District No. 1 except for springs and rights of way.

The system was constructed in the fall of 1894 by Murray, Marsden, & Company who imported Italian workers for the job. They were housed at the Depot near the railroad tracks where the Norcross-West marble mill was later located.

The agreement with the fire districts was to improve the springs as a source of supply, build a million-gallon reservoir for each district, and lay cast iron mains of not less than four-inch diameter. Another interesting feature of the contract was the feeding of the pipes from the springs directly into the distribution system rather than into the reservoirs. These would be filled with surplus from the mains, thus insuring a supply of fresh water in the pipes.

The Manchester Water Company came into the picture by purchasing all water contracts, rights of way, etc. from John Marsden and Murray, Marsden, & Company. The Water Company was formed October 23, 1894 with Henry W. Millar of Utica, New York, John Marsden of Utica, Mason S. Colburn of Manchester Center, J. W. Fowler of Manchester Depot, and E. C. Orvis of Manchester Village as Associates. The Water Company purchased the water system November 15, 1894 and secured some remaining rights from the fire districts in January 1895.

Arthur Marsden, son of John Marsden, came to Manchester in April 1895 to install water services to customers. In 1904 he returned to Manchester and became superintendent and manager of the water system, replacing Si Hughes, who had been with the company since its beginning as construction foreman.

The Water Company sought additional supplies of water on the Green Mountains in 1895 and in January of the following year water rights and springs were acquired. It was not until 1901 that pipe was laid and east side water connected to the Center and Depot distribution systems.

The distribution has since been expanded as demand warranted. Pipe was laid to Richville in 1913, out the Barnumville Road in 1947, and up the Hicksville Road to East Manchester in 1949. The Frost spring was made available as a supplementary supply to part of the Depot and Richville in 1915.

Arthur Marsden retired from active participation in the company in 1943 when his son, Howard, took over. The Water Company is now the oldest corporation in the community under the same management, spanning a period of sixty-five years.

### § *Sewer Systems*

As Manchester and its buildings continued to grow in size, the problem of waste disposal began to loom larger. Soil conditions in much of the town proved ideal with its gravelly nature for the installation of septic tank disposal systems for individual homes. Many homes are still accommodated in this manner. But by 1900 enough people felt that some different system of waste disposal was necessary to warrant construction of sewer lines.

Private enterprise was responsible for the construction of various lines in Manchester Village which were later taken over by the Village. The first outlet was on open ground near the Battenkill, but this proved unsatisfactory and the outlet was extended directly to the river, resulting in direct pollution of the stream. Private sewers constructed about the same time at Manchester Depot and on the southern end of Bonnet Street at the Center were added sources of stream pollution.

In late 1935 Manchester Village began the construction of a modern disposal plant with the aid of federal money, money voted



by the Village, and private contributions by Bartlett Arkell, W. B. Pettibone, and W. H. Wehrhane. The plant was located west of the Battenkill and south of the location of the former electric light plant.

The Manchester Depot Sewer Company issued 214 shares of stock at \$10 each for construction of a sewer in that locality, and assessments were made for its maintenance. It has given considerable trouble at times and empties right into the Battenkill. Fire District No. 1 discussed its possible purchase in 1945, but considered it an unwise investment.

The sewer on Bonnet Street was constructed when there were only a few houses on the street. As new homes were built they were connected so that all residences south of School Street are served by it. B. J. Connell is the present treasurer and manager.

The 1946 town meeting voted to have the Selectmen appoint a committee to investigate and report on the feasibility of some system of sewage disposal and a disposal plant to serve Manchester Center, Depot, and Way's Lane. The committee submitted a report signed by Louis Martin and Leon Wiley with a map published in the 1946 town report. The layout of the sewer lines was designed by Henry W. Taylor, who was the engineer for the Manchester Village disposal plant. No figures were submitted with the report and no action was taken on it by the town.

The 1958 town meeting directed town authorities to seek federal and state funds with which to conduct a preliminary survey of a proposed sewage plant with its attendant facilities. The final step was a vote for a \$230,000 bond issue for the construction of a sewage system by the 1959 town meeting, later confirmed by a two-thirds vote at a special town meeting June 21, 1960.

There the matter stands with the prospect that soon Manchester may be removed from the roster of towns contributing raw sewage to its main streams.

### *§ Telephone and Telegraph*

MANCHESTER'S unusual interest in telegraphy has often been attributed to the fact that the Rev. J. D. Wickham, headmaster of Burr and Burton Seminary, was a personal friend and correspondent of the inventor, Samuel F. B. Morse. At any rate, Manchester did not

lag far behind the first commercial system which was set up in 1844 between Baltimore and Washington.

In 1846 Matthew B. Goodwin, jeweler and watchmaker, became the town's first telegrapher in a dwelling he built for himself and his business "two doors north of the Equinox House" or "one door north of the Bank, Manchester, Vermont." Goodwin was telegrapher for the "American Telegraph Company" and the "Troy and Canada Junction Telegraph Company." Shares of capital stock at \$15 each in the latter company were payable at the Bank of Manchester or at various other Vermont banks. A message of less than fifteen words to Bennington cost twenty-five cents.

By 1871 L. C. Orvis, manager of the "Western Union Telegraph Company," expressed willingness to send emergency telegrams on Sundays from his Village drugstore. Orvis even needed to hire an assistant, Clark J. Wait. The *Manchester Journal* commented editorially on the surprising amount of local telegraphic business.

In the fall of 1878, the "Popular Telegraph Line" was established between Manchester and Factory Point by the owners, Paul W. Orvis, Henry Gray, J. N. Hard, and Clark J. Wait. The line soon lived up to its name, as local messages of moderate length could be sent for a dime and the company was quickly able to declare very liberal dividends on its capital stock.

In 1879 the same Clark Wait, with H. H. Holley of South Dorset, formed the "American Telegraph Line," extending from Manchester Depot via Factory Point and South Dorset to Dorset. Besides being most convenient, the line "soon proved a good investment for the owners." Telegraphers at the Depot at this time were Aaron C. Burr and Mark Manley of "Burr and Manley," dealers in lumber and dry goods.

Early equipment was very flimsy; the smallest gusts of wind toppled poles, making communications impossible. But companies continued to spring up. By 1883 the "Battenkill Telegraph Company" was in existence and Alvin Pettibone was its president. Operating in 1887 was the "Valley Telegraph Line," officers of which were E. C. Orvis, president; H. K. Fowler, vice-president and secretary; J. N. Hard, treasurer; F. H. Walker, superintendent; H. S. Walker, assistant superintendent. Two companies now had headquarters with Clark J. Wait, who by then had his own drugstore at

Factory Point—the “Northern Union Telegraph Company” and the “Western Union.” Operators were Arthur Koop and Norman Taylor. Still existing on a “Northern Union” telegraph form is a typical peremptory message from Peru grocer J. J. Hapgood to Burton and Graves’ store in Manchester—“Get and send by stage sure four pounds best Porterhouse or serloin stake, for Mrs. Hapgood send six sweet oranges.”

About 1888 J. E. McNaughton of Barnumville and E. G. Bacon became proprietors of the “Green Mountain Telegraph Company,” connecting all offices on the Western Union line and extending over the mountain from Barnumville to Peru, Londonderry, South Londonderry, Lowell Lake, Windham, North Windham, Grafton, Cambridgeport, Saxton’s River, and Bellows Falls.

From 1896 until 1910 John H. Whipple was manager of Western Union at the Center in the drugstore he purchased from Clark Wait. The Village office of Western Union with George Towsley as manager and telegrapher continued in Hard’s drugstore until 1905. During the summers, Towsley often needed the assistance of a company operator.

These were the years when people flocked to Manchester not only to play golf, which had come into vogue, but also to witness the Ekwanok Country Club tournaments. New Yorkers were kept informed of scores by reporters who telegraphed fifteen to twenty thousand words daily to the metropolitan newspapers. This boosted local telegraph business and Manchester basked in all the free advertising. In 1914 when the town was chosen for the U. S. Amateur Golf tournament, a representative hurried here from the Boston manager’s office. In his wake came the District Traffic Supervisor and the cream of the telegraphic profession, ten of Boston’s best, chosen for their long experience and thorough knowledge of golf. During that tournament alone, some 250,000 words winged their way out of Manchester.

The old Morse system was replaced locally by the Simplex modern automatic method in 1929, when Ellamae Heckman (Wilcox) was manager of the Western Union office. During summers, business was so brisk that Mrs. Wilcox had two assistants and a messenger. She was succeeded by Clarence Goyette. Since that time the telegraph office has shifted in location from the railroad station at



the Depot and shops at the Center back to the town clerk's office and drugstore at the Village. After being located for some years in the Village at the Equinox Pharmacy under the supervision of Mrs. Harry Mercier, it is presently located in the Hill and Dale Shop, Manchester Center.

The first known telephone line in Manchester was established in July 1883 between Burr and Manley's store at Manchester Depot and the Kent and Root Marble Company in South Dorset. This was extended the following year to include the railroad station agent's office and Thayer's Hotel at Factory Point. In November 1887 a line connecting several dwelling houses in Dorset was extended to Manchester Depot. Telephone wires from Louis Dufresne's house in East Manchester to the Dufresne lumber job near Bourn Pond were up about 1895. Eber L. Taylor of Manchester Depot recorded the setting of phone poles in East Dorset and Barnumville in his diary for 1906. These must have been for local calls strictly, as in May 1900 the "only long distance telephone" in town was transferred from C. B. Carleton's to Young's shoe store.

A small single switchboard was installed in the Village over Woodcock's hardware store (later E. H. Hemenway's). George Woodcock was manager and troubleshooter; Elizabeth Way was the first operator; and a night operator was also employed. Anyone fortunate enough to have one of those early phones advertised the fact along with the telephone number in the *Manchester Journal*.

In 1918 the New England Telephone Company began erecting a building to house its operations on the corner of U.S. Rte. 7 and what is now Memorial Avenue at Manchester Center. Service running through Barnumville and to Bennington County towns east of the mountains was in the hands of the "Gleason Telephone Company" in 1925, but major supervision of telephone lines in Manchester was with the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, which eventually gained all control. More aerial and underground equipment was installed as well as office improvements to take care of the expanding business.

In 1931 Mrs. F. H. Briggs, agent and chief operator, who was to retire in 1946 with thirty years' service, led agency offices in sales for the year with \$2,490. William Hitchcock, who retired in 1938, was a veteran of thirty-four years' local service. Another veteran

telephone operator was Edith Fleming Blackmer, who had been in the office forty years at the time of her death in 1960.

In 1932 Dorset received its own exchange, which made business easier for the Manchester office, but it was not until February 1953 that area service was extended to include Manchester and Dorset. This eliminated toll calls between the two towns. Within a month, calls were up seventy per cent.

### § *Electric Power*

ELECTRICITY plays such an important part in community life today that it is difficult to envision a time when current was not available for daily use. Yet one has to go back only some sixty years.

The first mention of an electric plant in Manchester seems to be one installed in Reuben Colvin's and Houghton's gristmill on the West Branch in Factory Point. No records are available as to the date or extent of installation, but it may have been in 1896.

On June 14, 1900 the *Manchester Journal* reported that an electrical engineer was installing an electric light plant for Edward S. Isham at "Ormsby Hill." This was working by the end of August and giving satisfactory service.

In November 1900 surveying was done under John Marsden on the east mountains to ascertain if it would be possible to get sufficient water and fall to operate an electric power plant. Nothing came of it, perhaps due to lack of opportunity for water storage.

The next step was construction by the Manchester Light and Power Company of a plant on the west bank of the Battenkill south of Union Street bridge. This was nearly completed May 23, 1901 with a promise of lights by June 10, but the first light did not go on until September 28. It was at the end of the sidewalk in front of the Dellwood Cemetery cottage.

The first directors of the Manchester Light and Power Company were John Marsden, M. L. Manley, William F. Orvis, George Smith, and John Blackmer. The officers were John Marsden, president; John C. Blackmer, vice-president; George Smith, treasurer; and William F. Orvis, secretary. Marsden was manager of the company for ten years and manager of its successor company, the Colonial Light and Power Company, for one year.

At about the time the Marsden enterprise was getting under way, the Vail Light and Lumber Company started construction of a chair stock factory on the site of the present Bennington Co-operative Creamery, intending to use its surplus power for generating electricity. Manchester then had two competing power companies until 1904, when the Manchester Light and Power Company purchased the transmission system of the Vail Company. This was fortunate, as the Vail plant burned in 1905.

The Colonial Light and Power Company was succeeded by the Vermont Hydro-Electric Corporation, which in turn was absorbed by the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation. The latter now furnishes the area with electricity distributed from a modern sub-station at Manchester Depot which was put into operation February 19, 1930 and was improved in January 1942 by the installation of larger transformers.

For a time following the abandonment of the local plant, electric current for Manchester was brought in from the south with an emergency tie-in with the Vermont Marble Company system to the north. This was dispensed with several years ago.

The most recent power-producing facility in the area is a private enterprise of Dr. J. G. Davidson on the west side of Mount Equinox, where a lake of thirty acres holding 216,000,000 gallons of water has been impounded at an altitude of 2,179 feet. Some of the power is used for a C.A.A. peripheral communications station at the top of Equinox. This station has four receiving and transmitting towers 129 feet high, which enable planes to contact Logan International Airport at Boston, Massachusetts, for landing and other operational instructions. Lake Madeleine Dam was dedicated October 11, 1957.





## CHAPTER XIII

# Town Welfare

A FUNCTION of local government which has undergone vast change since the early days of Manchester is the care of the poor and indigent. In the early 1800s and for many years, such individuals or families were warned to leave town. This was a device apparently intended to relieve the town of expense in caring for the poor. The warning was generally "served" by the constable, who had to "make his return thereon." If the warned did not leave and stayed to become paupers, there was no responsibility upon the town to look after them because they had been advised to move along. The town meeting of March 1837 voted to direct the town clerk to record the old warnings of "notice to quit" which were then on file. There are about 100 such notices covering the period from 1802 to 1834 recorded in Volume 1 of the Town Records.

Another early method of relieving the town of expense in the care of the poor was called "vendue." It was used a number of times. A town meeting March 12, 1811 voted that the Selectmen "set up Constant Nikerson at vendue and sell him to the best advantage to the town." Another town meeting in 1818 voted that Joseph S— and Hannah S—, town paupers, "be set up at vendue, the bidder to be holden to support them for one year if the selectmen shall choose, payment to be made quarterly." Joseph S— was struck off to Thomas Johnson at \$75 and Hannah S— to William Brown at \$58. Opium was to be furnished by the town. A meeting the following year voted that the treasurer pay Johnson \$3 for extra

clothing for Joseph S— and in 1823, \$12 in favor of Sarah Smith for opium and extra services rendered by her to Hannah S—.

On March 6, 1821 William R— was put up and struck off to John Brooks at seventy-five cents a week and another year he was bid off by Thomas Wait at \$1.50 weekly until the Selectmen could take him away. An 1821 town meeting directed the Selectmen to “dispose of clothing and other articles delivered to the town, being the property of Perry Dyer, late deceased, a transient person.” The meeting voted that all remaining paupers be set up at vendue to be maintained through the year without expense to the town. What this “sale” of paupers indicated is not clear from the records. The purchaser, agreeing to take care of the pauper at vendue, probably figured that the services of the person so bought would more than compensate for the board required and the amount paid to the town.

Citizens kept a rather close check on the Selectmen as to what they were to do, a procedure which applied to other functions of government as well as care of the poor. In 1812 a tax of one and a half cents on the dollar was voted for support of the poor. The 1814 meeting voted that the Selectmen include an article in the next warning “to see if the town will provide a home for the poor of the town.” A meeting March 5, 1822 voted a tax of one cent for support of the poor and that the Selectmen hire a house in which the paupers of the town “shall be placed and provided for.” An 1828 town meeting directed the Selectmen to draw orders for the support of the poor.

Apparently the question of housing the poor was a recognized problem for many years and one in which some citizens, notably Joseph Burr, a wealthy bachelor, were seriously interested. In 1828 the Selectmen were authorized “to raise a sum not to exceed \$500 to be appropriated with such sum as Joseph Burr’s executors shall appropriate for purchasing a farm for the support of the poor.”

Townspeople were evidently aware that Joseph Burr was making some provision in his will for a poorhouse or farm, but they had no inkling of the amount. His bequest, for those days, turned out to be sizable. Burr had directed his executors, Joel Pratt and John Aiken, to use \$1,200 for the purchase of a poor farm, which they did December 7, 1829, as recorded in Volume 11 of the Land Records.

The house is shown in Beers' *Atlas of Bennington County* as "town farm" in 1869. It is now the residence of Donald F. Riker.

As years passed, the town farm evidently did not prove adequate. The 1881 town meeting warning included an article to see if Manchester would purchase a town farm; the article was subsequently dismissed. The 1882 warning carried an article to see if the town would appoint a committee to investigate the practicality of buying a town farm with increased facilities for keeping and providing employment for the poor. There is no record that this committee ever reported.

With passing years, however, the need for that form of poor relief appeared to decline and in 1942 there was only one inmate at the town farm. The town sold the farm in 1946 and the proceeds were put into the Joseph Burr fund, the income to be used for poor relief in town.

The office of overseer of the poor seems to be mentioned for the first time in Manchester records in 1832, when a committee was elected to settle "with the overseer." In 1843 it was voted that the Selectmen serve as overseers of the poor and again in 1845 and 1857. The custom of electing an overseer of the poor annually prevailed until 1941, when the town manager system was adopted. Since then the town manager serves as overseer.

The Manchester District Nursing Association, under the sponsorship of the Manchester, Manchester Center, Manchester Depot, and Bennington County Improvement Associations, was formed in 1913. It was managed by an executive committee of seven with two members from each of the first three organizations. The secretary-treasurer, H. N. Morse, represented the Bennington County group. Mrs. Loveland Munson was the first president.

The 1914 yearbook listed an advisory committee of five local physicians and a district nurse, Miss Edna Batchelder. In the years 1919 and 1920 there were a total of 233 cases with 1,439 visits by the nurse. The nurse made fifteen visits to schools with the medical inspector and 208 pupils were examined.

The Nursing Association was supported by private contributions until 1927, when the town voted an appropriation of \$300, which was raised to \$500 in 1928 and remained at that figure until 1933, when it dropped to \$400. The \$500 appropriation was restored in



1934, increased to \$600 in 1935, to \$800 in 1939, and then to \$1,000 in 1943. In the next two years the town appropriated \$1,200, which was raised to \$1,500 in 1947. For the next nine years, \$1,850 was voted, followed by \$2,100 for three years. Votes on these increasing appropriations were in the affirmative by substantial majorities. This seems to indicate that Manchester citizens take a serious view of the community's social responsibilities.

During this same period, a change took place in the organization. The Manchester Welfare Association was organized in 1942, incorporated the following year, and in 1944 the Nursing and Welfare organizations merged as the Manchester Welfare and Nursing Association. The emphasis of the association's social service is to help the individual to help himself, and the scope of its work makes it a true community institution. With a few changes, the program of the association as expressed in the *Manchester Journal*, July 19, 1945, is essentially what it is today. Few towns the size of Manchester can avail themselves of such services from a local organization:

1. A maternity program which renders assistance to expectant mothers and directs their care after the baby arrives.
2. A well baby clinic with supervision of child care to school age.
3. A program of school health inspection through high school which aids in the detection of physical defects and their correction.
4. Bedside care of sick persons is provided when necessary and classes have been held in home nursing.
5. A graduate registered nurse is provided to serve the community.
6. Among clinics maintained are: Well Child; Dental; Psychiatric; Chest; Orthopedic; Immunization.
7. Financial assistance is offered in correction of eye, ear, nose, and throat defects.
8. Social service: consultation on family problems; organization of canning groups, sewing groups; school milk and hot lunch program participation; Christmas baskets; loans for emergencies; direct relief for food, fuel, and clothing in emergencies or when the wage earner is temporarily dislocated; co-operation with outside organizations in the investigation of local people.

Thus it can be seen that this legally incorporated organization has rendered all types of aid and assistance for which the need may arise among Manchester residents.

The Manchester Welfare and Nursing Association receives no money from any state or federal source. Some seventy per cent of its financial support comes from donations, and during the year it conducts a number of money raising projects. In 1943 Mrs. Estelle Anderson left a fund of nearly \$75,000 to the Vermont Children's Aid Society for Manchester's underprivileged children. The Welfare and Nursing Association receives about a half of the income of that fund each year to use in its own program, while the balance is spent directly by the state society.

The Welfare and Nursing Association is managed by a board of trustees composed of fifteen members, all of whom, as well as the officers, serve without remuneration. The officers (1960) are: Miss Mary Rogers Warren, president; Mrs. Walter H. Shaw, first vice-president; Mrs. William A. Griffith, second vice-president; Mrs. Edwin L. Bigelow, clerk; Anton G. Hardy, treasurer. The association employs a public health nurse and an executive secretary.

The level of welfare exercised by the Welfare and Nursing Association today with an average annual expenditure by the town of \$9,169.17 for direct relief represents a tremendous advance from the town meetings in 1800 which voted to auction off paupers and to "introduce smallpox into the town of Manchester by inoculation on the first day of November next."



## CHAPTER XIV

# Manchester in Later Wars

### § *War of 1812*

IN the period between 1776 and 1812 some 123 Manchester men are said to have served in militias.<sup>1</sup> In 1812 war was declared against England and the northern frontier was again threatened. On July 6 Manchester Selectmen called a special meeting "to see if the town would raise money to furnish the magazine of the town with ammunition . . . and also furnish . . . the detached militia . . . with necessary arms and equipments for the defence of the country."<sup>2</sup> The citizens voted a tax to do so. One of the committee appointed to take charge of Manchester's military stores was Richard Skinner, later Governor of Vermont. Apparently there was some opposition to the plan. A month later, a meeting took place to see if the town would rescind the vote to raise the tax. The attempt was unsuccessful. War taxes of Bennington County that year totaled \$95,358, of which Manchester's share was \$9,012.

For two years the drum of the recruiting officer sounded in our street, and successive squads of volunteers and militia went through their maneuvers on the green.<sup>3</sup>

Some of the thirty-four to thirty-six men who went from Manchester<sup>4</sup> were in the regularly organized state militia which marched

1. From the Whipple Collection. See Appendix.

2. *Manchester Journal*, March 23, 1871, p. 2.

3. Loveland Munson, *The Early History of Manchester* (Manchester, 1876), p. 61.

4. See Appendix.



north in the fall of 1812. Their company commander was Captain Richardson of Londonderry and their regimental commander Colonel Stephen Martindale of Dorset, who had seen service in Warner's regiment at Bennington at the age of sixteen.

Abram C. Fowler, the village schoolmaster, exchanged the ferule for a musket and won a commission in the regular army for his bravery at the Battle of Plattsburg . . . Daniel Olds, grandson of Gideon Ormsby, was killed in a skirmish at Chateaugay . . . John Harris, a private in the regulars, fell in the desperate night battle at Lundy's Lane.<sup>5</sup>

Public sentiment concerning the war was evenly divided between the "peace party" (Federalists) and the "war party" (Republicans and Democrats). Both struggled for political mastery. An election was held in Bennington County in the spring of 1813 to see if war with Great Britain should be continued or if peace should be restored at any price. Manchester's vote was eighty-seven for war; seventy-three for peace.<sup>6</sup>

In the fall of 1813 a number of Manchester men enlisted in the regular army or volunteered for three months' service. The latter were transported to Burlington in wagons after mustering and electing their officers in East Rupert. Captain Weed of Rupert was company commander and the regiment was led by Colonel Isaac Clark of Castleton. Their only engagement was a skirmish at Misisquoi Bay in which they captured over a hundred of the enemy including the British major, Powell. On their way home after discharge, the volunteers met their former prisoners returning to Canada.

In 1871 an act was passed by Congress entitling the surviving soldiers of the War of 1812 to pensions. Only seven men from Manchester were left to qualify—John S. Pettibone, Benjamin Munson, Alvah Bishop, Leonard Sargeant, Truman Kimpton, David Reynolds, and Artemus Gleason.<sup>7</sup>

The period between 1813 and the Civil War was peacefully marked by "the grand old days when the farmer, the mechanic, and the woodsman abandoned toil and hied away to the 'muster' for a

5. Munson, *Manchester*, p. 61.

6. Lewis Cass Aldrich, *History of Bennington County* (Syracuse, 1889), p. 136.

7. *Manchester Journal*, March 23, 1871.

season of jollification to eat Yankee gingerbread and drink new cider and boast of the prowess of the American eagle.”<sup>8</sup> The great event of the year was “June training” held the first Tuesday of June, when all males in Manchester between the ages of twenty and forty were required to drill until sundown. There were two companies—the artillery at the Village and the infantry at Factory Point.

The captain was supposed to post in a conspicuous place a warning giving the place and hour for assembling. In the Village, Captain Benjamin Munson once failed to name the day and gave the hour as simply “nine o’clock.” The wags of the company, taking advantage of the omissions, were determined to have some fun at the Captain’s expense. The custom was to awaken him on training day by firing a shot under his window. This was done in authorized fashion except that the hour was 9:00 p.m., twelve hours earlier. Captain Ben took in the situation, put on his uniform, called the roll, and drilled the men all night. The clowns decided that the laugh, after all, was not on the Captain.

The Vermont Militia in 1837 consisted of three divisions, nine brigades, and twenty-seven regiments. Commander of the First Division was Major General Martin Roberts of Manchester and under him, commander of the Second Regiment was Colonel Walter J. Shephard, also of Manchester. This regiment included a rifle company made up of men from Manchester, Dorset, East Arlington, and Sunderland. Six years later, it was reorganized to include also men from Sandgate, Rupert, Pawlet, Danby, Wells, and Mt. Tabor. The seventh company of this regiment was limited to men from “all that part of Manchester east of the top of the west Mountain.”<sup>9</sup> In 1843 Solomon Bentley was a major in the Second Regiment, Moses Harrington was a Brigade Inspector in the Adjutant General’s department, and Daniel Roberts, Jr., was a Division Judge Advocate in the Judge Advocate’s department. These men were all Manchester residents.<sup>10</sup>

8. From an unidentified newspaper clipping in Burr and Burton Seminary historical files.

9. *An Act for Regulating and Governing the Militia of Vermont* (Montpelier, 1837), p. 58.

10. *Militia Law of the State of Vermont* (Montpelier, 1844), pp. 15–18.

### § *The Mexican War*

NICHOLS BARNARD, Pierrepont Raymond, and Benjamin S. Roberts of Manchester participated in the Mexican War from 1846 to 1848.

### § *The Civil War*

#### GLORY TO THE NORTH

(Sung October 6, 1862 on the departure of  
Captain Josiah B. Munson's Volunteers from Manchester)

Cheers for our Banner as we rally 'neath its stars,  
As we join the Northern Legions and are off to the wars,  
Ready for the onset, whatever be our fate,  
And we'll conquer as we go.

Manchester's role in the Civil War was little different than that of a hundred other small New England communities. It reflected as in a mirror the patriotic color and agonizing tragedy of that bitter struggle between the States.

In July 1861, after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, a military company was organized at Factory Point with the accompaniment of soul-stirring airs played by the Factory Point Cornet Band. The company, in which some fifty men enrolled, sought immediately to prepare itself in drill and discipline prior to regular enlistment in the Vermont Volunteers. Josiah Burton Hollister was elected captain; H. D. Young, first lieutenant; and J. H. Carpenter, second lieutenant. A committee was appointed to obtain arms.

Anti-secessionist feeling was running so high in Manchester that Dr. Ezra Edson, advertising in the *Manchester Journal* for lumber workers, warned "No persons opposed to the General Government in putting down the present *unhallowed* rebellion need apply."

In August the recruiting office opened officially with *Journal* editor, Henry E. Miner, as recruiting officer to enlist men for the Fourth and Fifth Regiments of Vermont Volunteers. This first recruitment was made quickly, for patriotic spirit ran high. Andrus L. Bowen, newspaper columnist, said:

When the First Vermont went south, we all wanted to go, young and



old. We thought it would be only an excursion to subdue the rebellion; how mistaken we were, only the four years following could tell.

Privates in that first group were paid \$18 monthly plus rations from the day of their enlistment, with \$3.50 monthly clothing allowance and \$100 to be paid at discharge. Officers received more and were elected by their company; regimental officers were appointed by the governor. The State of Vermont offered an extra \$7, an added lure to recruits. By the end of the enlistment period, ninety-three men had enlisted in Manchester.

Meanwhile, an assembly of citizens armed with spirited remarks and a great show of patriotism gathered at the Court House to take measures to provide for the wants and comforts of men volunteering in Manchester. Not only was the public called upon to subscribe funds, but parts of uniforms not furnished by the government were to be made by Manchester ladies. The Hon. M. Hawley was appointed government agent for the town under a legislative act passed to provide for the families of Vermont citizens mustered into United States service.

James Hicks, Company A, Second Regiment, one of the first four boys from Manchester to enlist, died shortly after reaching camp. The body was returned to Manchester and a large cortege made the solemn walk to Factory Point Cemetery.

The disaster at Bull Run made increased armed forces necessary, and two more regiments were called from Vermont. The north shire of Bennington County was to furnish one company. With spirit still high, 100 men were quickly recruited. According to Dr. Wyman:

The company was rendezvoused at Manchester village, fed at Vanderlip's, and those who did not go home nights were lodged in the Court House. . . . The hall in the old schoolhouse at Factory Point, now Adams Hall, saw a good many nights of intensive drilling . . . and on the pleasant nights there was much marching about the streets to the music of two bands. Charles P. Dudley was elected captain, a splendid selection, as he had seen service in the First Vermont and was most capable. W. H. H. Peck was chosen first lieutenant and Sam E. Burnham, second lieutenant.<sup>11</sup>

11. Edmond L. Wyman, M.D., Memorial Day speech printed in the *Manchester Journal*, June 5, 1919.

This, then, was the ill-fated Company E, Fifth Regiment, First Brigade. Raised from Manchester and environs, organized August 30, 1861, and inspected by Fifth Regiment surgeon, W. P. Russell of Middlebury, Company E was mustered into the United States service September 16 at St. Albans. It was composed mostly of young unmarried men who averaged nearly twenty-five years in age and five feet eight inches in height. They took the name of "Equinox Guards" in honor of Manchester's mountain.

In addition to a reception and supper given them by the community, the "Guards" were entertained by the Rev. and Mrs. James Anderson of the Congregational church. Led by Captain Dudley, the company handsomely marched to their cake and coffee in the Anderson garden through a flag-festooned arborway. Mrs. Anderson, who had taught many of the boys in Sunday School, made a motherly speech. It was a poignant moment and one which they recalled many times in the months that followed.

When it was time for the "Guards" to join the rest of the regiment for the St. Albans' muster, they formed opposite the Equinox House and the order of march was given. Preceded by the Manchester Cornet Band and followed by a train of horse-drawn vehicles and citizens on foot, the sad company marched toward Manchester Depot. Tears fell as the "Guards," their bright bayonets gleaming in the sunlight, boarded the train amid a wild waving of hands and handkerchiefs. The cheers, blessings, and prayers of the whole community went with the train that pulled slowly out of Manchester that day—

May they return ere long, unharmed and covered with glory, to lay down the weapons of their warfare, and cultivate the arts of Peace once more, among the Green Mountains and valleys of Vermont.

Solomon Bulkeley of Dorset, official letter-writer for the company, kept the home towns informed of its activities via the pages of the *Manchester Journal*. He wrote of their emotions as they proceeded south into enemy territory; he pleaded for warm blankets, food, and linens. Orlando Burton, who succeeded him as scribe, reported seven of the company ill or dead of sickness before they even went into battle. In February 1862 Lieutenant Burnham returned to

Manchester as a recruiter to fill any regimental openings in the entire Vermont Brigade.

Company E participated in twenty-five battles and fifteen major engagements, some of which were Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Antietam, and Rappahannock Station. But it was on June 29, 1862 in their fourth battle, at Savage's Station, Virginia, that Company E became indelibly printed in the memory of Manchester. The entire regiment, which rendered "important and memorable service . . . in half an hour suffered the greatest loss of men killed and wounded ever endured by a Vermont regiment in a single action."<sup>12</sup>

Because of poor communications, the first hint of trouble received in Manchester was a letter from Levi C. Orvis, Jr., to his sister. It was reprinted in an "EXTRA" edition of the *Manchester Journal*:

Fortress Monroe  
July 4, 1862

My dear Sister:

I have got dreadful news to communicate. (I presume it has not reached Manchester yet.) In the last fight before Richmond, *all* of Co. E 5th Vt. Vols. were killed, wounded, or taken prisoners, with the exception of seven. Orlando Burton was killed instantly by a grape shot; Willard Bennett was mortally wounded and left on the field; Isaac Burton is wounded, not very badly in the arm. Joseph Leonard is wounded twice. . . . Samuel Burnham is not hurt. Capt. Dudley is sick. . . . He was in the fight but was not well at the time. I saw all the Company that are left. . . . They are a sober set of boys. . . .

A message from Lieutenant Burnham came on July 6—"I am in command of all that is left of Co. E present fit for duty—seven men!"

Shocked Manchester could hardly believe the bitter news. Forty-four of fifty-nine men had been killed or mortally wounded. From the Cummings family alone, three brothers—William, Edmund, and Hiram—died of wounds, the latter two in a prison camp; a fourth brother, Silas, was killed in battle; and a fifth, Henry, was wounded and imprisoned. Their cousin, W. H. H. Cummings, also a prisoner, died of a shattered leg. This was "the greatest mortality

12. G. G. Benedict, *Vermont in the Civil War*, I (Burlington, 1886), p. 187.



in any one family in the Union, for either a single battle or during the war."<sup>13</sup>

Honorable mention was given to Sgt. Isaac Burton for seizing and carrying safely the regimental colors after they had been shot from the hands of the color bearer.

The gallant Captain Dudley was "one of the bravest of Vermont's brave. . . . Few deaths in the whole course of the war occasioned deeper sorrow among the Vermont troops."<sup>14</sup> Distinguishing himself at Bank's Ford and at the crossing of the Rappahannock, Dudley rose in rank to lieutenant colonel, a commission which was given him posthumously. The only remaining field officer of the regiment and thus in command, he was mortally wounded May 10, 1863 at Spottsylvania.

Other Manchester men found their way into other outfits. Charles F. Orvis, recruiting officer for Captain Streeter's third company, Second Regiment, Sharp Shooters, supervised trials in town for those intending to enlist and wishing to test their skill with the rifle. George Swift and A. B. Straight were in the Regimental Band, Fourth Regiment, which organized in Bellows Falls. When the Seventh Regiment formed in Poultney, December 1861, free passes on the railroad were furnished to enlistees. George T. Roberts of Manchester was appointed colonel in that unit.

Local citizens met at the Court House July 17, 1862 to prepare a subscription paper for paying a \$50 bounty to Manchester men enlisting in the Tenth Regiment under the second government call. Amidst spirited music and patriotic addresses, a Judge Miller offered extra inducement to recruits from his own pocket: \$10 to the first man to enlist and be accepted; \$9 to the second; \$8 to the third, etc. When the Judge took his hat to leave, he received cheer upon cheer.

On August 13, 1862 President Lincoln issued a desperate third call for 300,000 more men to serve for nine months. As there were no recruiting officers for this call, town officers and patriotic citizens were expected to supervise the enlisting and form the companies of this second brigade. On August 21 a town meeting voted

13. Major W. R. Dunton, an address made June 29, 1898 at a reunion of Co. E, Fifth Regt., Vt. Vols.

14. Benedict, *Vermont in the Civil War*, I, p. 199.

that the Selectmen be instructed to raise on the town's credit any necessary sum, not exceeding \$3,000, for the purpose of paying \$100 to each accepted recruit required in Manchester's quota. It was also moved that Selectmen include a motion to raise the sum on the grand list in the warning of the next freemen's meeting.

This company, thereby recruited at Manchester, was Company c, color company of the Fourteenth Regiment. It was organized August 28, 1862 with men from Manchester, Rupert, Winhall, Sunderland, Dorset, and Arlington. Josiah Munson was captain and Charles A. Pierce, editor-owner of the *Manchester Journal*, was orderly. Harrison Prindle, another *Journal* editor, was adjutant of the regiment.

Apparently other towns were not pleased that Manchester had more than her share of officers in Company c. Though during the recruiting period most of the enlistees went home each night, one of the Rupert boys waited for the weekend before going home over Rupert Mountain. But the weather that fall suddenly turned cold. He asked Captain Munson to lend him an old coat for protection. Without hesitating a moment, Munson took off his own coat and gave it to the boy. His action promptly ended all the disagreement and folks no longer found fault with the officers of Company c.<sup>15</sup>

No one apparently has ever tried to describe the farewell given Company c. The memory of Savage's Station and the death of so many Manchester lads was still too fresh in the minds of the great crowd that assembled for the departure. The company adopted as their slogan—"No Rebel Force Can Rend Our Powers, The Whole United States Is Ours." It was mustered into the United States service at Brattleboro October 21, 1862. Of this group, two were killed in action and five were wounded.

The entire community threw itself into the war effort. Several public meetings were held at the Congregational church to plan soldiers' aid; to furnish necessities for the war wounded in Vermont hospitals; and to contribute money for the sick and wounded via the New England branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. The commission at that time was headed by Mark Skinner of Manchester and Chicago. One of the hospitals receiving aid from Man-

15. E. L. Wyman, M.D., Memorial Day speech printed in the *Manchester Journal*, June 5, 1919.

chester was in Brattleboro. Delight S. Boudinot, sister of Lieutenant Governor Leonard Sargeant and widow of Cherokee chief Elias Boudinot, was one of the main supporters of this work.

Citizens were asked to grow more onions and cabbages to be sent to the army as a scurvy preventative. Pickled and dried vegetables, flannels, linens, cottons, and maple sugar were forwarded free by rail to a Boston clearing house. One box of chickens, turkeys, and holiday pies lovingly prepared by Manchester mothers and wives for the Thanksgiving dinner of Company E did not arrive in the south until January 17! After the Emancipation Proclamation, money collections were taken in Manchester churches, and barrels of clothing were sent south, both for "Freedmen." This was undertaken largely through the efforts of Mrs. Emma Wickham. In 1865, a Miss Miner from Manchester went to Savannah under the American Missionary Association as a "Teacher in Colored Schools."

When the war reached a crisis in 1863, new men were sorely needed. In November the Selectmen were authorized by a town meeting to borrow \$4,600 on the town's credit in order to pay a \$400 bounty to any man enlisting under the new quota. These bounties, which continued to be raised by a tax on the grand list, were increased only a month later to \$500. Though the speeches at the war meetings were loudly applauded and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed, no one enlisted. Manchester, too, was slightly embarrassed; tiny Sandgate had not only offered a bigger bounty, but had already filled its quota. In anticipation of another call, a town meeting, July 13, 1864, authorized the Selectmen to *hire* men to fill a quota. The size of the bounty and the number of recruits were left to their discretion.

A town's quota was controlled by the number of citizens available for draft. Thus any men enrolled in Manchester who were later found with disease or defect could be certificated by Dr. George L. Ames, the examining physician, and dropped from the rolls. On February 21, 1865, the Selectmen announced the newest quota filled. Seventeen men had been obtained at a cost of \$13,250! Taxpayers were notified "that the Bounty tax voted January 9, 1865 [was] payable  $\frac{1}{2}$  the first of April and  $\frac{1}{2}$  the first of September."

Toward the end of the war, several regiments of Vermont militia were organized to be prepared for further emergency. The entire



division when completed totaled 6,999 men. Regiments Nine, Ten, Eleven, and Twelve composed the Third Brigade. The Eleventh Regiment, of which Mason S. Colburn of Manchester was colonel, mustered here September 28–30, 1865. Since tents for 350 men failed to arrive due to a transportation blunder, the regiment was quartered in their own and private homes, in the Court House, and at Vanderlip's hotel. The forty-seven men of Company A, Cyrus Munson, captain, had been raised by volunteer enlistment and by draft from Manchester and Winhall.

The news of Lee's surrender came by telegraph and its reception in Manchester was described by Mrs. Wickham:

The intense joy of the land uttered itself, now in praise, now in shouts. Our bells rang their loudest peals, banners were held up amid processions formed in haste, and the echoes . . . of the cannon's roar from our stable mountains was . . . a voice proclaiming the fulfillment of our hopes, the end of our fears. John had leave to ring his bell all day, and his ordinary wages trebled by patriot friends to permit him to continue an exertion in which he truly delighted.<sup>16</sup>

Vermont's famed general, L. A. Grant, expressed the military opinion to Manchester lawyer Ahiman L. Miner in a letter written June 24, 1865 from Vermont Brigade headquarters:

I am happy to congratulate you and all loyal men upon the glorious termination of the war. . . . The principles of Republicanism are forever established, the rights of man are vindicated, and our power as a nation is felt and acknowledged. . . .

P.S. I expect to be in Vermont in a few days!<sup>17</sup>

### § *The Spanish-American War*

MANCHESTER'S two Spanish-American War veterans were Lezem Bovey and John B. Covey. Covey took part in the affair at Las Guasimas on June 24, 1898 and in the Battle of San Juan, Santiago, Cuba, July 1 and 2. Dr. Henry W. Eliot, later a resident of Manchester, was also a participant in that war and active in local veterans' affairs.

16. Emma Wickham, *A Lost Family Found* (Manchester, 1869). "John" was Cyrus Branch, runaway slave-sexton of Congregational church.

17. Whipple Collection.

Among the local planners of a suitable demonstration in Montpelier to honor the gallantry and bravery of Admiral George Dewey on his return to Vermont were J. W. Fowler, A. C. Connor, A. L. Graves, F. H. Orvis, J. H. Whipple, and D. K. Simonds.

### § *World War I*

MANCHESTER men participating in the first World War numbered 134. Listers in the conscription of men eighteen to forty-six years of age were Edward Griffith, Paul W. Fowler, and James C. Dean, who worked in conjunction with the draft board which in 1917 was located in Bennington. Poll taxes of all servicemen from Manchester were abated by vote of the board of civil authority.

The principal relief unit was the Manchester branch, Bennington chapter, American Red Cross, which sometimes functioned in separate groups in the three villages. As early as June 1917 the Red Cross sought to outfit all Manchester soldiers prior to their call. Later, pajamas, sheets, hospital shirts, sweaters, scarfs, socks, and helmets were shipped from headquarters here to points overseas.

A class in making surgical dressings was started early in the war also. During the desperate summer of 1918 the Manchester branch faced a quota of 750 front-line packets. Workrooms in the Village which had been given by Albert Reed became too small for so many volunteers, so the making of surgical dressings continued there and the seamstresses moved across the street to Miss Fowler's cottage. Many women took work home with them. By August some 15,190 dressings had been shipped from Manchester to division headquarters. Clothing was sent later for postwar civilian relief.

Mrs. Claude Campbell headed the Red Cross Home Service committee, which aided servicemen in making out proper allotments and insurances. It kept a detailed record on file for each man. It also handled applications for the \$60 bonus and worked with the town clerk on the Manchester honor roll. The roll, a memorial tablet which has since been removed, was erected east of the post office in December 1918.

Manchester's first casualty was Roger Conant Perkins, who was killed in flight training at Key West, Florida, on March 13, 1918.

He was the youngest son of the Rev. and Mrs. Sidney K. Perkins, pastor of the Congregational church.

At the 1918 town meeting the purchase of war savings and thrift stamps was encouraged more than ever and many were sold as a result. At the close of the meeting a motion was made that Walter Hard "form a letter to our soldier boys expressing the confidence and appreciation of the home town." Fourth of July exercises that year reached a new high in patriotic demonstrations, and in October Manchester went well over the top in the Fourth Liberty Loan. The quota of \$81,600 was not only reached, but \$100,000 was subscribed and \$128,300 was actually collected.

Burr and Burton Seminary's headmaster, James Brooks, participated in educational work in France among American soldiers under the auspices of the overseas Y.M.C.A. service.

The *Manchester Journal* reported Armistice Day as the "noisiest, happiest day that Manchester ever saw." It was but a short time before everyone with a car trimmed his machine with bunting and started from Walker's garage at the Depot. The schools were given a holiday and the teachers prepared the children for the march. Some fifty decorated cars filed past the soldiers' monument in the Village, stopping at the Court House for band numbers and the singing of the national anthem. The pealing of bells continued all afternoon and all evening and a huge bonfire lit up the golf course.

Perhaps the most unique distinction of Manchester's role in World War I was numbering among her residents one of the country's leading pacifists. Sarah N. Cleghorn became a member of the Socialist party as early as 1913. Two years later, after reading a sermon by the Rev. Willard Sperry of Massachusetts urging "Not Americans first, but Christians first" and after rereading the Sermon on the Mount, Miss Cleghorn became a "complete, uncompromising pacifist."<sup>18</sup> As chairman of the Committee on Christians in the Anti-Enlistment League, she participated in peace demonstrations on the Capitol steps in Washington, D. C. Though she utterly opposed war, Sarah Cleghorn, as an historian, vowed she would include all war news in the journals she kept for the Manchester Historical Society "just as a believer in religious toleration would have recorded the progress of the Inquisition."

18. October 20, 1917 entry, Vol. XI (1915-1918). Clippings and notes kept for the Manchester Historical Society, pp. 182-190.



§ *World War II*

PRIOR to Pearl Harbor, Manchester people, like most in the United States, were concerned with America's role in the world conflict. As early as March 1938, a huge meeting was held at Burr and Burton Seminary for a public discussion of "How the U. S. Can Best Prepare for Peace." In attendance were students, clergymen, business and professional people, and local peace leaders. A second discussion, arranged by the American Forum of Democracy, was held at the Seminary in December 1940 and the opinion was reached that America should not enter the war!

Already the first draft list of Manchester men had appeared in the *Manchester Journal*,<sup>19</sup> Walter Rice Hard being the first to be called under the Selective Service Act.

By May 1941 three air raid warning stations for the detection of planes were established in Manchester—at Burr and Burton Seminary in the Village; the Union Opera House at the Center; and the Modern Theater building at the Depot.

Sponsors of a rally for "Bundles for Britain" gave away a car in September 1941, which was escorted from the soldiers' monument to the Seminary by the Manchester Band. The program, led by Robert C. Brewster, featured Senator Walter Hard as speaker.

On November 9 some 2,500 to 3,000 people flocked to the Manchester airport to watch maneuvers between Bennington and Belows Falls Home Guard units. The problem involved the landing of parachute troops by the "enemy" and the retaking of ground by Home Guard troops. Five airplanes were used and local people manned the canteen and ambulance service. First aid units were supervised by four registered nurses.

The Manchester branch, "Battenkill Valley Chapter," American Red Cross of the northern Bennington County Chapter was formally organized in April 1941 with I. N. Bartlett as president. Formerly it had functioned as a volunteer service office operated and financed by a group interested in promoting Red Cross work. Later the Manchester branch was to act as a clearinghouse for the entire chapter. It sponsored first aid and nutrition classes, the War Relief

19. October 31, 1940.

canvass, and a mobile canteen. Besides establishing a motor corps, it arranged a program to transport Manchester donors to the blood bank at Troy, New York. Between December 7, 1941 and June 1945, the Manchester Red Cross made 3,513,465 surgical dressings.

Immediately following the country's entrance into the war, Company 16, Vermont State Guard Reserve, organized in Manchester with Fred P. Heinel, captain; William H. Miller, first lieutenant; Orrin H. Beattie, second lieutenant. The company was officially recognized December 8, 1941 and was mustered into the State Service with twelve noncommissioned officers and fifty-five privates. Many losses in personnel came when its members entered the regular services or into defense work outside of town. However, in 1942 when it lost its reserve standing and became Company 1, First Battalion, the group had a full company of three officers, fifty men, and seven reserves. Age limits had been increased to include men between seventeen and sixty.

Company 1 drilled one night weekly for two hours in the Seminary gymnasium. Gasoline was made available for transportation and uniforms were furnished by the state. Some actual practice was provided during their training when a twenty-four-hour guard was placed on an aircraft forced down in this vicinity due to poor flying conditions.

During the next two years, Company 1 again lost some forty men but in 1944 had regained full strength and stood third highest in the battalion. Recruits had also been drawn from Arlington, Sunderland, Rupert, and East Arlington. Clifford B. Graham succeeded Heinel as captain of the company. He was discharged a major at the mustering out ceremonies held in the Seminary gymnasium March 12, 1946.

Manchester citizens aided the military program of the war in many ways. They co-operated with several trial black-outs; they supported the Garden Club's Victory Garden program under the supervision of Clyde Bryant; they attended and supported war bond and stamp rallies; and they underwent the rigors of tire, gas, sugar, and fuel oil rationing. Henry H. Wehrhane was chairman of the Salvage Depot for scrap, which was located near the bandstand at the Center. Eight youngsters from the Richville section called the "Scrap Pilots" collected 15,840 pounds of scrap to receive a

state award. The 1942 Town Report was given the right to be inscribed with "M" for Merit by Governor William H. Wills because of the town's outstanding job in salvage collection.

The Mark Skinner Library waged a Victory Book campaign. People were urged again and again to respond to fund drives which paid the cost of waging war. In 1943 Manchester was the first town in the United States to exceed its quota in the War Chest drive. During the Sixth and Seventh War Loan Drives, Manchester, under the chairmanship of Robert C. Brewster, greatly exceeded its quotas. In the Victory Loan Drive of December 1945 Manchester's quota was \$95,000. Manchester responded with a subscription of \$223,500 in a tangible show of patriotism.

The growing international crisis and the increasing menace to American security and freedom prompted the Special Session of the 1941 General Assembly on September 13, 1941 to give legislative status to the Vermont Council of Safety. In No. 17 of the Acts of this session provision was made authorizing the preparation and supervision of plans for civilian defense. W. Robinson Martin, town manager, was appointed by the governor as the Manchester director and steps were immediately taken locally to create committees to organize and direct the civilian effort for training the community to combat the results of enemy action.

On December 9, 1941 telegraphic instructions were received from the governor at 1:15 p.m. directing the Civilian Defense organization to take posts immediately pursuant to the warning of the Boston Army Information Center. After the "All Clear" on Manchester's first "air raid," telegrams were sent to the mayors of Boston and New York offering the town as an evacuation center.

Ned Bryant was the first chief of the air raid warning service in Manchester. One air raid warning station was established at the Wilcox farm in the south part of the Village. This was Observer Post 38-c, Ground Observer System, Aircraft Warning Service. It was in part-time operation from the first activation order, April 22, 1942, until July, when it was furnished with around-the-clock duty by an extremely loyal group working in pairs for two or three hour stints. First in a tent, this post was later housed in a small building built by the observers, who reported to duty regardless of the hour and weather. Roscoe Wilcox was in charge of this station assisted



by Roger Wilcox. Miss Lois Wilcox was the first Manchester observer to receive an Army Air Corps merit badge for over 500 hours of duty.

Also rated "excellent" by the Army was the observer post located in East Manchester, first at L. G. Gaudette's and later on the school-house grounds. Christopher Swezey, Sr., Alfred Roberts, and Francis Smalley were successive chief observers at this post, which at its peak was manned twenty-four hours daily until October 1943, when airplane spotting was discontinued except for short periods weekly. Manchester's Civilian Defense and Red Cross Corps were looked upon as outstanding units in Vermont, receiving many compliments from both state and federal officials.

During the war, two new flags were given to Manchester Village, the "Stars and Stripes" by Robert W. Higbie and a gigantic service flag by Bartlett Arkell.

On November 29, 1942 an honor roll lettered by Leale H. Towsley and given in a glass case by the Manchester Rotary Club was dedicated in front of the Baptist church at the Center. Stanley B. Ineson was the chief speaker assisted by uniformed members of Company 16, Vermont State Guard; the American Legion Guard of Dorset; Manchester Boy Scouts; and the Manchester Band. This honor roll was replaced in June 1944 by a larger roll containing some 300 names which was located on the lawn of the Dyer homestead (The Landmark—1960) at the Center where it remained until storm-damaged in 1950. It has never been replaced.<sup>20</sup>

Manchester's greatest loss were the lives sacrificed in defense of the country. Eric Allen, Jr., perished at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. James Harned died in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines July 1, 1942, though his parents did not learn his fate until three years later. Lieutenant Carlton B. Overton, Jr., crashed April 22, 1943 in the plane of which he was co-pilot during an unscheduled landing at an Evansville, Indiana, airport. First Lieutenant Robert T. Lee, Jr., was killed June 20, 1943 in a plane crash in Albany, Texas. Corporal Harold T. Squires died accidentally at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, July 4, 1943. In August 1944 Harvey K. Fowler was killed in action while serving with the Marine Corps in

20. See Appendix for names.

the South Pacific. Walter D. Elcox died on an unknown date in Europe in the service of his country.

V-E Day in May 1945 was celebrated with a small spontaneous parade. The day was marked by special services at the Baptist and Episcopal churches.

V-J Day, August 14, 1945, was a day for great celebration in Manchester as in the rest of the world. Impromptu parades, horn blowing, and bell ringing started early and continued far into the night. On the following day, gas rationing was discontinued and most of the canned foods and fuel oils were removed from the ration list.

### § *The Korean War*

WHEN the United States became involved in the Korean conflict, members of the 43rd National Guard Division of Vermont were called to active duty August 1, 1950. Close to 100 men in Bennington County were affected by the order and immediately six Manchester men received their draft orders. By January 1952 some sixty-five local men had enlisted or been called into the service.<sup>21</sup>

The first fatality from the area was Pfc. Vernon R. King, who was taken prisoner January 7, 1951 while serving with the infantry in the vicinity of Wonju, South Korea. According to prisoners who returned home later, King became ill and died March 31, 1951. A second loss was Pvt. Reino Nousiainen, who was killed in action April 16, 1951.

The Korean War ended October 27, 1953.

### § *Postwar Civilian Defense*

IN July 1950 Robert C. Brewster, as co-ordinator of Manchester Civil Defense, called for two volunteer chief supervisors and twenty observers to man a central observation post here for the National Air Defense Command. By fall, the Civilian Defense program had been reactivated with Christopher Swezey, Sr., as chief observer with E. J. Markey, Margaret Knothe, and Barton C. Hilliard as sup-

21. See Appendix for Manchester men called into service during the period of the Korean War.

ervisors. The duty of the post was to spot and report airplanes to the filter station in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Ground Observer Corps, Bravo Papa 51 Red, was organized July 14, 1952, one of three Vermont posts to maintain a twenty-four-hour schedule. In 1953 it had a perfect record. The town had erected and winterized headquarters near the Manchester Elementary School and furnished heat, electricity, and repairs.

In 1954 Manchester had 167 Ground Observers giving two or more hours weekly to the Air Force. Any types of aircraft spotted—nonmilitary, military, hostile, or distressed—were reported now to the Albany Filter Center. Also required was information on the exact time the plane was sighted or heard, the location, and the direction of the flight.

On July 5, 1954 the Air Force entertained twenty-five observers from Manchester who had given the greatest number of hours with an airplane ride to Otis Air Force Base, Falmouth, Massachusetts. Having given 300 or more hours of service at that date were Robert Anderson, Margaret Heinel, Fred P. Heinel, the Rev. Edgar Johnson, J. Burton Powers, John Thompson, Lillian Thompson, Paul Totschinder, and Ellamae Wilcox. By February 1956 twenty-seven people had given 370 hours or more with John Thompson leading with a total of 472 hours. Lillian Thompson was second with 466 hours.

In November 1955 the name of the Manchester Ground Observer Corps was changed to Baker Peter 51 Red. However, due to advances in electronic detecting devices and having fulfilled its mission, the Corps was inactivated January 1, 1959 throughout the United States.

The Manchester Emergency Unit was incorporated in April 1955 as a nonprofit organization to provide Manchester with a trained and equipped group for Civil Defense or other disasters. The first trustees were F. Paul Gribbin, Howard C. Dailey, and Lois B. Barney. Under the direction of Dr. Mason B. Barney, the Emergency Unit co-operated with the Defense Command in conjunction with the Ground Observer Corps.

The unit attends fires, the annual Manchester Fair, and any of the local activities which might require first aid or emergency coverage. By 1957 it had acquired a truck and garage. Currently, Man-



chester's Civilian Defense program, which is now supervised by Dr. Barney, works with the Emergency Unit and the Manchester auxiliary police. A radiological monitoring team has also been established and trained.

### § *Postwar National Guard*

ABOUT January 1, 1956 a contingent of the 172nd Infantry, Vermont National Guard, was organized in Manchester at Rod and Gun Club headquarters. This regiment belonged to the 43rd Division, the Green Mountain Boys of World War II fame. Twelve men filled the roster with Donald Johnson as platoon leader and Enver Cook, acting first sergeant.

The group disbanded as a unit in March 1959 at Manchester Depot when the whole organization was transferred to Bennington and became part of the 102nd Armored Cavalry. Some of the Manchester members continued to attend the weekly meetings in Bennington.

### § *Lest We Forget*

ON the village green of nearly every New England town is a memorial erected in gratitude to members of the community who fought in the country's defense. Manchester has two such monuments.

The first, erected by the Women's Relief Corps, Skinner Post, Grand Army of the Republic, was paid for by public subscription and commemorates all soldiers of the Union Army who are buried in Manchester. A solid block of granite, ten feet high and six feet at the base, this strikingly simple marker is located in the front section of Factory Point Cemetery. Unlike the gravestones, it faces south to Manchester Depot, a fact that was strongly criticized by those who preferred it to face Mount Equinox<sup>22</sup> and the setting sun. The monument was built at the shop of W. H. Fullerton and was dedicated July 3, 1900.

A more familiar memorial, one which could almost be called Manchester's trademark, is located on the Village green. This area being public domain as laid out in the original plans of the town, it

22. *Vermont Advance*, June 1900.

was Manchester Selectmen and not Village officials who gave permission to erect the marker on the site.

Made of fine Westerly granite, the memorial is surmounted by a majestic statue of a Continental soldier with drawn sword and determined expression. The directors of the Manchester Soldiers' Monument Association, in compliance with the wishes of Franklin H. Orvis, agreed on the heroic figure of a Revolutionary soldier to represent Ethan Allen (of whom no portrait or personal description remains). Orvis was not only a prime mover in forming the Association, but he also furnished most of the money.

Four bronze shields are affixed to the sides of the monument upon which are, as completely as can be ascertained, the names of all Manchester men who served in any American wars prior to 1905.

On December 20, 1897 nine teams with eighteen horses hauled the base of the monument from Fullerton's shop at the Depot to the Village. Fullerton "had furnished the design and had charge of making the model and cutting the figure."<sup>23</sup> It is said that while he was directing the placement of the statue upon the base, he acquired a small audience of "sidewalk superintendents," among whom was police officer James Hanley. When Fullerton couldn't decide in which direction to face the figure, Hanley suggested turning it toward New York State and the "Yorkers" so despised by Ethan Allen. Fullerton quickly complied.

Despite the fact that a plaque on the monument reads "May 30," the memorial was dedicated July 4, 1905 with full Grand Army ceremonies performed by the Skinner Post before 2,000 people. On the decorated speakers' stand which stood in front of the Congregational church were D. K. Simonds, who presented the monument for the G.A.R.; Josiah Burton Hollister of Rutland; Congressional representative, David J. Foster of Burlington; the Hon. J. K. Batchelder, Arlington lawyer; and the governor, Charles J. Bell. Trainloads of veterans from neighboring towns arrived at Manchester Depot and after a luncheon at the Battenkill Inn, marched to the Village. They were led by the marshal, Captain George H. Sessions. Nearly every house in Manchester was decorated for the occasion with flags and bunting.

23. *Manchester Journal*, October 27, 1904.

Patriotic holidays in Manchester were celebrated with far more fervor in yesteryear despite the fact that in 1958 the town voted four times as much as in 1884 for the observance of Memorial Day. The sum, which has risen to \$200, was first given to the G.A.R. post to administer; then to the G.A.R. post and the American Legion together; and now to the Legion. A regular harangue occurred in 1884 when a special town meeting was held to rescind the \$50 appropriation for proper observance of the holiday. The attempt failed, but unfortunately the damage had been done. Skinner Post, G.A.R., publicly announced that they wanted no part of the voted money "obtained only from contention or wrung from the pocket of unwilling greed."<sup>24</sup>

Nevertheless, from 1876, when Memorial Day was first made a holiday by the State of Vermont, until "the thin blue line" of Civil War veterans was gone, local observance of the day was both lengthy and elaborate. Two parades have always taken place—one from the park at the Center to Factory Point Cemetery and one from the Village green to Dellwood Cemetery with services and grave-decorating at each.

In the old days, marchers were carried from one village to the other by carriages; today, by bus. Paraders included commanderies from Rutland and Bennington, the Rutland Band, Manchester fire companies, drum corps, post colors, veterans, Sons of Veterans, and school children. Among the latter was a "boys' brigade" which learned to drill by itself after school. One of its number recalls the second march at the Village:

It seemed like a much longer walk than from the park in Manchester Center to the Factory Point Cemetery. But probably by then we were somewhat worn out and our enthusiasm largely watered down.<sup>25</sup>

Following the parades, a free dinner for all veterans (and sometimes, all marchers) was served at G.A.R. Hall or at the Baptist church by the Women's Relief Corps or the Legion auxiliary. Patriotic addresses were heard at the Center Opera House or the Village Music Hall in the afternoon.

24. *Manchester Journal*, May 1884.

25. Major General John Watt Page, recollections and entry in personal diary for May 30, 1896.



Sarah N. Cleghorn, in a book of clippings collected early in the century for the Manchester Historical Society, called Eleanor Baldwin "the unofficial manager" of Manchester's Memorial Days:

The townspeople met two or three afternoons before the holiday on her side porch to tie wreathes; and Memorial Day morning, Mrs. Baldwin could be seen placing bouquets in the children's hands as they formed to march with the veterans to the cemetery. When the speech on Memorial Day afternoon was made in the Music Hall, Mrs. Baldwin decorated the stage and sometimes placed a vacant chair in the midst of the worthies who sat on the stage.

Mrs. Baldwin is said to have been so patriotic that when her husband, a Civil War veteran who resembled Uncle Sam, died, she buried him in a flag and directed that she be buried in another with "her hands among the stars." This flag during her last illness was kept draped over the head of her bed.

By 1919 the khaki of World War I veterans was added to the fast-fading blue of the remaining eight Civil War veterans in Manchester. Only two G.A.R. men were able to parade in 1921—Smith Jameson, who still beat the drum in the Manchester Band, and Nathaniel Towsley. With the death of Horace J. Fuller on February 6, 1929, they were all gone.

Because of America's involvement in World War II, Memorial Day services in 1942 showed an upsurge of patriotic spirit. Senator Walter Hard was the special speaker. The holiday is now marked by short, quietly dignified services at both cemeteries. The enthusiasm of old has been transferred to Manchester's somewhat unique observance of Loyalty Day.

After adoption by the national organization, Harned-Fowler Post #6471, Veterans of Foreign Wars, sponsored the first observance of Loyalty Day in Manchester April 29, 1951. The day was designated by the Selectmen as an annual demonstration of allegiance to the United States government in rebuttal to the Communist May Day celebration in Soviet Russia. The 1958 town meeting voted its first allotment of \$200 to the V.F.W. post for the observance. Until 1960 this long and largely attended parade, traditionally held on the Sunday nearest the first of May, was the only such celebration in Vermont, but it is now being adopted elsewhere.

Manchester has often marked the anniversary of the Battle of Bennington, as Manchester men not only participated in the action August 16, 1777, but the area south of the Ekwanok Country Club entrance is reputedly the site of Colonel Seth Warner's camping ground. Here in 1937 was found a soldier's hatchet completely embedded in a tree where it had been thrust and forgotten a century and a half earlier.

In 1795 Manchester, Sunderland, and Dorset united to celebrate the eighteenth anniversary of the battle. Participating were a battalion of Colonel Roberts' regiment of militia consisting of companies from those towns under the command of Major Martindale; a company of cavalry under Captain Bradley; and two companies of light infantry under Captain Towsley and Lieutenant Graves.

On the committee of arrangements for the sixty-second anniversary of the battle in August 1839 were three Manchester men: Dr. Ezra Edson, W. C. Watson, and Moses Harrington. In August 1861 the *Manchester Journal* reported a beautiful exhibition of fireworks, Chinese lanterns, Roman candles, and rockets given by John Vanderlip in front of his hotel in the Village. Quipped the *Journal*—"The spectators were almost *stark* mad with delight."

In 1927 Manchester celebrated the sesquicentennial of Vermont by the major production of a drama "The Pin Peddler," written especially for the occasion by Donald Guthrie, a summer visitor. The play revolved around incidents taking place in Manchester just prior to the Battle of Bennington. The large cast of actors was drawn from Arlington, Dorset, and Manchester. To match the colonial play as part of the celebration was a huge historical costume ball attended by some 400 couples.

Today the only local observance of the Battle of Bennington is made by the Manchester Fire Department, which sends members and equipment to appear in the parade in Bennington.

Independence Day, lamented by Manchester for its loss of spark, was formerly celebrated with plenty of spirit. Though in 1864 no proper observance was planned because of the war, the gun commonly used in the Village for celebrations came to an untimely end:

Some young gentlemen from Troy . . . got possession of it, and taking it a few rods back of the hotels, loaded it in a manner well calculated to secure its destruction. Whether they anticipated the result or not . . .

pieces of iron weighing from five to fifty pounds were thrown all over the village. After settling . . . damages, the persons found it convenient to leave. . . .<sup>26</sup>

Benjamin Eggleston, one of the last Revolutionary War veterans in the vicinity of Manchester, was nearly 100 years old when he died during Civil War times. He lived on an \$8 monthly pension and was remembered by journalist Andrus Bowen as being peculiarly insistent on celebrating the Fourth alone. According to Bowen, the day before the holiday, Eggleston bought himself a jug of gin:

At the break of day he went into the front yard and fired off his old army gun, threw up his hat, and shouted, cheered, and yelled. Then he went in, sat down and took a drink . . . cleaned and loaded the old gun and in twenty minutes went out and fired it again. He kept it up all day, loading, firing, and cleaning the old musket every twenty minutes and taking a stiff horn of gin each time. He didn't want company (which he loved) that day for he didn't have time to visit but attended strictly to celebrating Independence Day.

Fourth of July celebrations for that matter were a high point through the years for all Manchester people. World War I brought even greater enthusiasm. In 1915 Hiram Eggleston, who had taken charge of Village fireworks for some years, offered his pyrotechnic display to some 2,000 people in front of the Equinox House. Unexpectedly, the sparks from one of the set pieces were fanned by a brisk wind. This set off a chain reaction and for some minutes the air was filled with all sorts of fireworks including the fine kiln-dried platform upon which they had been arranged.

In 1916 speechmaking, Red Cross money collections, and patriotic hymn singing were held inside the Congregational church because of bad weather. As the sky cleared, townsfolk and the Manchester Band adjourned to the Village green to enjoy fireworks given by Mr. and Mrs. George Orvis. The street was brilliantly illuminated with red, white, and blue lights and on the south side of the soldiers' monument was hung a huge red cross of electric lights. An even more spirited demonstration took place the following year, when some 2,000 people sang patriotic airs and heard speakers at the Fair Grounds.

26. *Manchester Journal*, July 12, 1864.



Armistice Day in Manchester has not been especially marked by public observance. In 1932 members of the Dorset and Manchester American Legion posts united in a torchlight parade.

Manchester had more than an average interest in Abraham Lincoln and his family, for Mrs. Lincoln vacationed at the Equinox House. Following the assassination of the president, the inner pages of the *Manchester Journal* were lined with heavy black, and the editors gave a detailed account of the tragedy. On April 19, 1865 Manchester people gathered at the Congregational church for funeral exercises. The procession from Factory Point was composed of Company A, 11th Regiment, gentlemen on foot, and a long line of carriages. They were met by villagers, also in line and on foot, and together they entered the black-draped church. Ahiman L. Miner and the Rev. James Anderson gave addresses and the service ended with a singing of "America."

An out-of-town resident visiting Factory Point at the time is said to have tactlessly remarked that he was "d—d glad" of the assassination and wished it had been done two years earlier. This caused plenty of excitement around town and preparations were made to send him about his business in a manner not consistent with his dignity. The unpopular one got wind of the matter, however, and when searched for, couldn't be found.

When President McKinley died on September 14, 1901 all stores, houses, and even the Mark Skinner Library were draped in black. The Village trustees sent out black-edged mourning cards for the assassinated president. Special memorial services were held at the Congregational church and at St. Paul's church.

Manchester's 150th birthday was celebrated in 1914 with an old folks' reunion, tableaux, a display of relics, and an old-fashioned community sing. Preparations for the 200th anniversary were begun early in 1959 with the appointment by Selectmen of committees to consider an adequate celebration.

In a prelude to the bicentennial, a commemorative marker of Danby Imperial white marble was placed directly in front of the Court House on the Village green in August 1960. Dedication services were led by Governor Robert T. Stafford.



## CHAPTER XV

# Manchester Industries

THE outstanding fact about Manchester industries is that most of them have been dependent upon natural resources such as timber, stone, the products of agriculture, and that particular bounty of nature exemplified in climate and scenic charm.

Timber was the raw material for sawmills and other wood-working enterprises. Stone provided the basic material for lime kilns and marble works. The products of agriculture were a source of raw materials that supported a tannery, woolen mills, cheese factories, and finally, the Bennington County Co-operative Creamery, which made Manchester a shipping point for fluid milk from a considerable area. Tank trucking has brought another change so the Creamery is no longer an operating one, but has become a bulk transfer station (December 1960), one of the best in New England.

Most of Manchester's industries have been of a somewhat transient nature. Aside from the recreation, summer homes, and hotel business, the lumber and woodworking industry is the only one to have survived from its beginnings in 1768 and that is on a small scale compared with the early 1900s. Since the Manchester town-site was probably a heavily wooded area except for a section now occupied by all or part of the Equinox golf course, it was natural that sawmills would be the forerunners in any industrial development. Lumber was needed for homes and it is said that one sawmill was in operation for this purpose in 1768.

One is inclined to wonder at the efficiency with which power was

developed on the several brooks coursing through the town. It would seem that the smaller ones could never have carried enough water to provide power to saw marble and logs. But nearly all the brooks were used for power purposes at one point or another and the resulting small industrial opportunities may have been a factor in making Manchester a good place in which to settle. Big overshot wheels made efficient use of small volumes of water. Some of the sawmills may have been of the "up and down" variety similar to the one standing on the platform at the south end of the old mill in Weston.

One of the oldest mills in Manchester and in Vermont is said to have been the J. Henry Hicks sawmill, built originally by a Bourn on Bourn Brook in East Manchester. By the time Hicks operated it, chair stock was its important product. It was operated as late as 1902, but burned in October 1908. Timothy Mead, the original settler who owned some 200 acres in what is now Manchester Center, built a gristmill, sawmill, and a fulling mill in the 1790s to make use of the power available at the falls.

The Green Mountains east of Manchester supported one of the finest stands of timber, especially spruce, in the eastern United States. It was not until the early 1900s, however, that a concerted assault was made upon that natural resource by pulp and lumber operators, and several good-sized enterprises employing several hundred men were established in Manchester.

At present, much of the extensive forest is included in the Green Mountain National Forest, although only 3,716 acres are actually within the township. The forest land is now managed on a sustained yield basis by the United States Forest Service, which has an office for the southern division at Manchester Center. Towns having land in the National Forest receive a portion of the receipts, which must be divided between schools and highways.

Mills operating in town in 1869 as shown in Beers' *Atlas* were: J. R. & J. Burritt; Pettibone Bros. circular sawmill; and the Dobbin steam sawmill, all on Lye Brook and the latter well up on its headwaters. The Sessions and Bundy clothespin factory was on Bourn Brook in Hicksville and also the S. W. Bourn sawmill.

One who visits the Barnumville area in 1960 might find it difficult to visualize the activity that prevailed there some seventy years



ago. A post office, located north of the present highway from the Center and west of the north road, had been established in July 1871.

Barnumville was an important shipping point for lumber which came down the Peru road from the Green Mountain area to the east. The February 14, 1884 issue of the *Manchester Journal* stated that 40,000 feet of lumber was shipped from there in one day. A building intended for a railroad station was erected on the east side of the track. It is now located west of the north road where it has been a dwelling house but is now used for storage. The second floor was a dance hall.

The American Realty Company's pulp logs were drawn to Barnumville full length to be cut to standard size for shipment. The railroad had a ten-car siding to handle its business. Barnum and Richardson manufactured charcoal there for shipment to a steel mill in Connecticut. Charcoal kilns were located west of the railroad track a short distance south of the south crossing. A lime kiln was operated on the north road opposite the house now occupied by Allie Hart.

It is interesting to note that "Barnumville" is the address on a billhead of McNaughton & Lawrence in 1872, while "Barnumsville" appears the same year on a letterhead of J. E. McNaughton, dealer in spruce and hemlock lumber. A petition was readied in 1885 for a public road direct from Barnumville to Manchester Depot, but one was never built. A private one was used for travel between those communities.

Lumbering in Manchester continued to develop. The Battenkill Lumber Company acquired 30,000 acres of land and started getting out pulp logs in 1901. It went bankrupt in 1907. In March 1901 it was reported that the Mohican Pulp Company would have more than a thousand cords of pulp to float down the Battenkill when the ice went out. There was a big pulp yard back of the present location of V.F.W. headquarters and another pulp yard in the Bushee pasture north of the Payne road reached by a spur track from the railroad.

The Hadley Manufacturing Company, which moved here from Jaffrey, New Hampshire, employed about forty men manufacturing chair stock in a factory near the present Creamery. It was previ-

ously occupied by the Vail Light and Lumber Company. The chair factory burned in September 1905.

There was a Dean & Taylor sawmill located on the Battenkill where the present recreation pond is. It became the Dufresne mill in 1911, which was discontinued in 1946. The Broun Cooperage Company operated a mill in 1910 and 1911 in the Payne neighborhood before moving to Sunderland. The foundation of the Manchester mill can still be seen. They had secured the mill from O. P. Walker, the last of four owners. The earliest owners were Pettibones followed by a May and later, the Fuller Lumber Company.

One of the largest lumbering operations in the Manchester area was that of the Rich Lumber Company. This concern moved to Manchester from Wanakena, New York, and in 1912 entered into contracts for the purchase of hard and soft timber stumpage on some 12,000 acres of land located in the Green Mountains in Manchester, Winhall, and Sunderland townships. The 116-acre farm of F. M. Walker was bought for their operations. Rich & Andrews erected an office building, a store, and houses for the use of officers and employees of the company. In 1913 a sixteen-mile standard-gauge railroad was constructed up the mountain along the Lye Brook ravine and by late April 1915 the first logs were delivered at the mill.

Ford Bros. built and operated a double band sawmill. Ryan and Schlieder contracted for the slabs, which were debarked and chipped for shipment to a paper mill at Malone, New York. The Standard Wood Company of New York built loading docks in 1915. The two mills burned in October 1919, when all but some 40,000 feet of logs had been delivered. One life was lost in the daytime fire. The following year the Rich Company went out of business after thirty years of operations in Pennsylvania, New York, and Manchester.

From at least 1912 until 1914 Buck's sawmill was located at the end of the road leading east from route 11-30 just south of the Bonny Peter Motel. It was first located upon the mountain off the Rootville Road, but moved down to where its timber resources were more available.

The Swezey Lumber Company has perhaps been in operation the longest of those connected with the lumber business. Its first mill was up on the Rootville Road beyond Prospect Rock at a location

known as the Swezey Job. When this mill burned in June 1921, a novelty shop was started near the Swezey home on route 11-30. Bread boards, stools, smoking stands, and finally square clothespins were made. This mill was destroyed in October 1932.

About six years later, the old Bradley mill, which had been built in 1888 and 1889, was acquired and renovated for the manufacture of clothespins, railroad track shims, and dimension stock of various sorts. This mill burned in April 1943 and a new electrically operated mill was erected on its site for the processing of hardwood timber. The mill is still operating as one of the most efficient of its type in the state.

Swezey also constructed an automatic charcoal plant for processing slab waste from the hardwood mill, but early one evening in May 1953 something went wrong with the automatic controls and the plant burned. It was not rebuilt. The hardwood slabs have since been disposed of at a processing plant near East Middlebury, and the chipped product is shipped from there to paper mills for pulp.

The N. D. Cass Company built a mill on the Rich Lumber Company site in 1921 and operated it as a toy factory. It burned May 6, 1925. The Peterson Furniture and Novelty steam mill on Dufresne Pond was built in 1927 and is still in operation. It has produced brush backs as well as furniture.

In 1946 Fritz Dillmann and Wendy Hilty started a toy manufacturing plant under the name of Toni Toys in the building near the railroad station that has been occupied by a number of industries. Another enterprise that operated a short time was the Hawley-Shroder woodworking shop in the red mill building at Manchester Center now occupied by Shroder's radio and phonograph shop.

The Manchester Molding Company started business at the Depot on the corner of the Richville road and route 11-30 in 1949. The plant first concentrated on plastics, but later turned to creating early Americana reproductions in wood, many of which have plastic linings. About sixteen persons are employed there at present.

One of the more recent small enterprises is the Manchester Woodcraft, which opened in the old Odd Fellows building at the Depot in April 1951. It erected a new plant on the Flat Road nearer the Center and moved in August 1957. Ferdinand Bongartz and Harold A. Wisell are partners in this business.



Another natural resource which provided raw material for milling was marble, though it seems probable that most of the marble worked in even the small early mills was secured in Dorset. A few quarries were opened in Manchester but were never worked extensively, as better quality stone could be secured elsewhere. Most of the marble mills were small, sawing stone with rather crude machinery. The finished product was of small dimensions.

Lyman Way is said to have operated the first marble mill in Manchester on property now owned by A. G. Hardy. It was later operated in partnership with his sons, finally becoming "Way and Eggleston." Above it, on what is now Woolley property, was Chamberlain's marble mill, which was later Ruleau's sawmill. Water for these mills was diverted by a dam still to be seen opposite the entrance to the Art Center. The area at the upper end of the present Way's Lane was then called "Marbleville."

Beers' *Atlas* of 1869 shows five marble mills located between the bridge at the Center and the one lower down on the Flat Road. One of these mills near the tannery was fitted up as a machine shop in 1883. W. H. Fullerton built a marble and granite works at Manchester Depot about 1869. The building later became a movie theater, Odd Fellows Hall, and the site of various other enterprises. A *Manchester Journal* of July 1880 noted that the outlook for the marble business appeared good; that W. H. Fullerton had doubled his help and had more orders than at any time in ten years. Fullerton furnished the stone and design for the soldiers' monument at Manchester Village.

Elijah Collins, 1783-1860, had a marble mill on land later owned by H. D. Giddings near the Fair Grounds. John Wait had a marble mill on the West Branch of the Battenkill south of the north cross road between route 30 and U.S. Rte. 7. His quarries were up near Mount Equinox. He gave a portion of the land on which the "Dugway" section of route 30 is located. Two marble mills operated by Gilman Wilson were once at Munson's Falls. There was also a marble mill on the Battenkill at the foot of Union Street which was run by the Hawleys. A sawmill was later located there and finally an electric light plant.

Perhaps the largest quarry opened in Manchester was on the Dyer farm now owned by the Wilcox Brothers, Inc. This quarry of

a red variegated stone which is breccia and a blue marble deposit above it was opened and promoted by the Taconic Marble Company, a New York concern of \$1,000,000 capital incorporated in 1890.

The Taconic Marble Company advertised the finest variegated and blue marble in the world. Its prospectus, written by a geology professor, J. S. Newberry of Columbia College, stated that in quantity the marble was inexhaustible.

In quality both the red and blue varieties are without rivals so far as is known in the country. The red is unlike any known in this country or in the old world.

The professor may have been a good geologist, but there were technical problems concerned with working the red variegated marble so pronounced that so far as it is known, it was used for only one large job—an estate down on the Hudson River. The quarry was then abandoned and the bondholders quit cutting coupons.

The largest marble mill in Manchester was the property of Norcross and West of South Dorset. It was located at Manchester Depot near the junction of route 11-30 and the Richville road and was built in 1902. It came under the control of the Vermont Marble Company in 1913 and after some intermittent operation by that company was demolished in 1932.

Limestone of lesser quality than marble was burned for lime, which was used for mortar and for the treatment of hides in the tanning process. Kilns for burning limestone were located at various places where stone of suitable quality was easily quarried. There were two locations on the Hanley farm on the Barnumville Road down the slope toward the river. Another was on Dr. Edwin K. Treat's property, where broken stone can still be seen on the bank above the highway. Other kilns were at the foot of Mount Equinox west of the Center reservoir, on Purdy Hill near U.S. Rte. 7, and on the north road in Barnumville.

Glass water pipe is said to have been manufactured in Barnumville, but no one seems to know where. Some of the pipe has been dug up and samples are available. McNaughton and Lawrence had charcoal kilns at Barnumville in 1872 as well as Barnum and Richardson. Brickyards were located at the Depot west of the Richville

road crossing near the present section car house, and east of U.S. Rte. 7 at the foot of Purdy Hill.

While it never assumed such proportions as to be regarded as an industry, iron mining was carried on to some extent. In 1887 a Clove Springs Iron Company mined ore on lands on the Green Mountains owned by Pettibone Brothers, Burritt Brothers, and M. G. Walker & Son. Five men were employed in October 1887 sinking shafts from two openings. Quartz sand and kaolin were also found in the area. Iron was also mined in the Lye Brook ravine by Gilbert Bradley. The foundry at Manchester Center used scrap iron rather than ore.

Use of the products of agriculture brought about industrial development, particularly at Manchester Center. After the death of Timothy Mead, his distillery, sawmill, gristmill, and fulling mill were purchased by Myron Clark, who moved in from Rupert. He rebuilt the gristmill in 1840. His son, Augustus G. Clark, became associated with him and built a large tannery on the south bank of the stream. Part of the tannery is now used for storage by Manchester Motors, Inc., with tenements on the upper floor. Clark also built several houses in which employees lived. After his death in 1879 his interests were taken over and managed by his sons-in-law, Mason S. Colburn and John H. Whipple.

The building now occupied by Bourn's Garage was originally built by J. W. Harris & Jennings as an extensive carding and fulling mill. Blankets and other woolen goods were made in the 1820s. In the 1860s other machinery was added and a knitting department established. Opposite that mill on the north bank of the stream was another small tannery on the site of Toomey's Garage.

The Battenkill Butter and Cheese factory was operated at Factory Point in 1876 by Hollister & King. The factory again opened April 24, 1884 with Frank Rowe as cheese maker. On June 12 it was making eighteen cheeses a day. It closed in November, reopening May 4, 1885, which shows it was a summer business. The dairies which supplied the milk probably operated only in the summer also.

A mill manufacturing hosiery was operated at Factory Point in 1878 by O. C. Waterhouse and I. H. Dench. A *Manchester Journal* for January 21, 1885 notes that W. L. Billings was manufacturing a large number of Moore Spring Beds, which were having good sales.



There were a number of items of local manufacture, the production of which could hardly be termed "industries." However, they were necessary in the years when small communities had to be more nearly self-supporting than is the case now. Tin, sheet iron, and copper utensils were manufactured by Young & Denio at Factory Point in 1871, by C. F. Swett in Manchester in 1871, and by A. J. Davis at Manchester Depot in 1904. Buggies, carriages, and wagons were manufactured by H. K. Waterhouse at Factory Point in 1866 and by C. O. Bentley at Manchester Center in 1893. M. Cloney advertised as a manufacturer of Men's, Boys', and Children's Clothing at Factory Point in 1871. About the same time, a Factory Point Boot and Shoe Manufactory existed. In 1874 the Drencher Coffee Pot Company was in operation at Factory Point.

In the late 1890s, the Woods Specialty Company had an establishment south of the foot of Union Street where a unique cast steel tool known as the "Handy Andy" was manufactured. It was a combination of hammer, pinch bar, screw driver, nine-inch measure, nail puller, and pipe wrench. The company also manufactured a combination nail puller-hammer.

An enterprise that operated a short time was the Green Mountain Mushroom Company in Richville. In the fall of 1946 a new plant of U. S. Plastics, Inc., started operations in Richville near the Rich Lumber Company property. It was not successful long nor was a chemical concern, known as the Marvel Laboratories, located on the Bradley mill property.

A specialized business different from anything previously known in Manchester was the Waililii Angora Rabbit Farm, which was established in June 1939 by Clara May Hemenway. During the twelve years of operation the herd grew from fifteen to 400 and breeding stock were shipped to nearly every state in the Union as well as to foreign lands.

A look at Manchester Village today, the focal point of the town's summer recreational business with its fine residences, beautiful main street, and golf courses, reveals nothing of the time when several industries and businesses existed there. As they declined or moved away, zoning regulations designed to keep the community a first-class residential and hotel area have prevented the establishment of new commercial enterprises. Consequently the Orvis Com-

pany of fishing tackle fame, in business for over 100 years, is the only surviving manufacturing concern. This may be because its product is so closely allied to the recreation field.

The Orvis Company manufactures fishing rods, flies, and other fishing equipment in a shop located on Union Street. These, along with a general line of outdoor sports goods, are attractively displayed in a recently erected showroom on U.S. Rte. 7. The business was established in 1856 by Charles F. Orvis after a friend borrowed a fish rod he had made and liked it. Others also used and liked that type of rod until a sufficient demand arose to warrant a small shop for their production.

Orvis first carried on the business in a house (now gone) south of the Orvis Inn and later in the brick building which is now the quarters of the Johnny Appleseed Bookshop. The fly room was on the second floor, while the first floor was used as a store for sporting goods and for a post office during the latter part of his second term as postmaster.

C. F. Orvis was assisted in the business by his two sons, Robert J. and Albert C., and by his daughter, Mary Ellen Marbury. The manufacture of artificial flies became a specialty of the company in 1870. The Orvis book, *Fishing with the Fly*, was published in 1883. It contained 300 pages and 149 colored illustrations of salmon, trout, and bass flies. Orvis also invented the minnow trap.

In 1940 the business was incorporated as the Charles F. Orvis Company with D. Clark Corkran, formerly of Baltimore, as president. Wesley Jordan, an expert on rod manufacturing, joined the firm at the time.

A few other small industries have been located at the Village. On the west side of the lower Valley Road below "The Cascades" was a small mill built about 1848 by Martin Vanderlip and later owned by Franklin H. Orvis. Further upstream on the same brook was a tannery built by Alvin Merriman in 1838 and run by Merriman and Van Note. Further north was a stone sawing mill owned by Horatio Walker and run by William Furniss.

A Purdy gristmill was located on Tanner Brook west of U.S. Rte. 7 on Purdy Hill. About 1871 a Mr. Brownson operated a glove factory employing some twenty women and girls. It is believed that the company occupied a room in the Court House. Successor firms





Rich Lumber Company yard showing homes at Richville.



Lyman Way's marble mill on Way's Lane. In 1849 he took his sons into partnership; about 1860 it became "Way and Eggleston." In the early 1870s, Dexter Pierce manufactured wooden articles here. This rare picture shows an excellent example of an early mill.





Norcross-West marble mill and yard, 1902–1932. Only some slabs of marble remain where this mill, the largest in Manchester, was located.



Iron mine on Lye Brook, 1886–1887.





## Estabrook's Opera House

Has a seating capacity of 500 persons. Stage 20 x 38 feet is supplied with scenery, &c. Situated at Factory Point, Vermont, the best show village in Bennington County, the center of trade and Railroad Station for five towns. On Bennington and Rutland Railroad. Rutland 30 miles, Troy N. Y., 50 miles. Rental \$15 00 per night, or will share with any good company.

ADDRESS,

**E. ESTABROOK, Box 9, Factory Point, Vt.,**

BILL POSTER AND MANAGER OF OPERA HOUSE.



*Above, left:* James W. Marsh, M.D. (1839-1925), eclectic physician. *Above, right:* Claude M. Campbell, M.D. (1873-1950), highly esteemed physician who practiced in Manchester for thirty-five years. *Left:* Edmond L. Wyman, M.D. (1843-1934), homeopathic physician. He was an outstanding layman of Zion Episcopal church. This picture was taken in 1923.



in 1874 and 1876 were in the Music Hall on Union Street. A business card is extant of Swift & Eggleston, manufacturers of fishing rods in the Village, but there is no data available as to when this business was in operation.

The Equinox Company, owner of the hotel and golf links, also had a bottling works for a number of years in a building west of the Equinox House. Not only was Equinox Spring Water sold as such, but it was also used as a base for effervescent soft drinks. That business was abandoned about 1920. At one time the company also shipped large quantities of sausage.

The town of Manchester, at various times over a fifty-year period, has offered some form of tax exemption as an inducement to bring industries to town. Up to 1921 the exemptions voted were for ten years with no specifications as to the number of employees. In 1921 the exemption voted was for five years for a plant employing less than fifteen persons. In 1939 it was voted to exempt any industry employing ten people which located within two years from March 1, 1939. A 1950 vote was to exempt from taxation for a period of five years all manufacturers making an investment of \$15,000 if put into operation within the calendar years of 1950, 1951, and 1952. So far the tax exemption program has not produced any permanent results.

Money has also been appropriated for promoting the recreational assets of the community. This represents an industry of a different type and one that has contributed much to the prosperity of the town. In 1935 \$800 was appropriated for the construction of ski trails and in 1937 \$2,000 was voted for the promotion of the winter sports business. In 1941 and 1942 the town voted \$1,500 for advertising and in 1943, \$500. In 1947 \$3,000 was voted to be expended in conjunction with some other agency for promoting the interests of Manchester as a summer and winter resort. Such appropriations were voted down in 1948, 1951, 1952, 1956, and 1957. The town voted \$1,500 to the Chamber of Commerce for promotional purposes in 1958, 1959, and 1960.

The actual results secured from these expenditures may be difficult to appraise, but such appropriations indicate an awareness of the community's opportunity for growth in recreational development and a faith that such growth can be fostered by judicious ad-

vertising. These expenditures represent an attempt to capitalize on that most valuable asset already mentioned, climate and scenic charm.



## CHAPTER XVI

### Banks

BY 1832 business in and around Manchester had developed to a point where services of a bank could be supported, and the First Bank of Manchester was chartered with a capital of \$100,000 on November 7, 1832. This bank operated until January 1, 1848 and was first located in a room of the house where its cashier, Bernice Raymond, lived. This was on the west side of U.S. Rte. 7 on what is now Frelinghuysen property.

The directors were Sylvester Deming, Josiah Burton, Milton Brown, Nathan Burton, Major Hawley, M. C. Deming, and Myron Clark. Sylvester Deming was president and Reuben Blackmer clerk. Myron Clark was cashier from November 1835 to February 1840. He was succeeded by W. P. Black, who served until January 1848. Myron Clark was president from April 1841 to February 1844, when he was succeeded by Milton Brown, who served until the bank closed in 1848.

The bank at that time was located in the brick building now occupied by the Johnny Appleseed Bookshop. It was permitted to use the premises in order to close its affairs until the second Tuesday of January 1849.

Occupying the same quarters was Manchester's second bank, the Battenkill Bank, which served the community from 1848 to 1865. Major Hawley was the president. During the night of Monday, September 30, 1850 the bank was robbed of \$5,600, half of which was in specie. A reward of \$500 was offered for the apprehension of the robber, who was eventually caught in Massachusetts and returned to Manchester for trial.



Officers of the Battenkill Bank in 1865 when it went out of business were: Major Hawley, president; William P. Black, cashier; Daniel Roberts, Jr., clerk. The directors were Major Hawley, Josiah Burton, Daniel Roberts, Jr., A. L. Miner, Darwin Andrew, Martin C. Deming, and Milton Brown.

On July 26, 1865 a successor bank, the Battenkill National Bank, was authorized to begin business by the Comptroller of the Currency and it served the community until 1884. William P. Black was the cashier, succeeded by William A. Black in 1883. The directors of this bank were Major Hawley, E. B. Burton, A. J. Gray, H. Wickham, Samuel K. West, Norman Bottom, and Henry B. Kent.

Another national bank located in the village of Factory Point was organized August 22, 1883 as the Factory Point National Bank, which still serves the community. Its capital was \$50,000, and twenty-nine stockholders signed the articles of association September 20, 1883. The directors chosen then were Allen P. Graves, Robert Ames, Mason S. Colburn, D. S. Wilson, William Root, George W. Farwell, and Ira S. Weed. Officers elected September 27 were: Robert Ames, president; Allen Graves, vice-president; J. P. Black, cashier. Four of the directors were residents of Factory Point. Farwell was from Dorset; Root from East Rupert; and Weed from Pawlet.

This bank, under sound management, grew steadily as the economy of the area developed. Its total resources increased through various stages from \$82,600.34 at the time of its founding to more than \$5,000,000 in 1960. Its capital was increased to \$75,000 in December 1885, only two years after its organization. By that time its commercial deposits had increased nearly \$50,000, its total resources to more than \$153,000, and it showed a small surplus of \$325.00.

The total resources had passed the half million mark by 1929. A big step forward was taken in November 1950 with the opening of a savings department. That year commercial deposits exceeded \$1,000,000, while total resources were more than \$2,000,000. Ten years later savings deposits exceeded \$1,500,000, which brought the total resources to more than \$5,000,000. Also that year, a recapitalization took place to \$125,000 and a surplus of an equal amount.

Since the flow of capital in a community is a reliable indicator of its economic growth, and since its banking facilities serve as a channel for that flow, the growth in banking resources, from one room in 1832 in the cashier's home to the modern bank with vaults, book-keeping machines, a staff of twelve, and resources of \$5,000,000, is an accurate reflection of Manchester's economic growth.

A robbery occurred at the Factory Point National Bank in September 1936. The bank suffered no loss by virtue of its insurance, and the robbers were eventually caught in connection with other depredations.



## CHAPTER XVII

# Manchester Merchants

**M**ERCHANTS are important in any community for they supply the material wants and needs of its inhabitants. Therefore, a listing of those whose names are available together with the types of merchandise they supplied may properly be a part of any town history. The following list, for the years 1866 to 1910, is probably incomplete, and the town surely had merchants in earlier years. However, there is no record of them comparable to that preserved in The Whipple Collection of historical documents from which this listing was taken. How many years these merchants were in business is not indicated, but they are listed in chronological order of the dates found on their letterheads and billheads:

1. H. K. Waterhouse. Manufacturer and Dealer in Buggies, Carriages, and Wagons. Factory Point. 1866.
2. Perkins and Utley. Furniture, Building Materials, etc. Manchester. 1866.
3. Bradley and Blackmer. Dealers in Dry Goods, Oil Cloths, Glassware, Hardware, Pork, Fish, etc. Factory Point. 1871.
4. Burton & Co. Dealers in Dry Goods and Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Hardware, Paints, Oils, etc. Factory Point. 1871.
5. Orvis & Co. Job Printers and Publishers. Publishers of the *Manchester Journal*. Manchester. 1871.
6. C. F. Swett. Dealer in Stoves, Wooden, Glass, and Hollow Ware, Pumps, Lead Pipe, etc. Manchester. 1871.
7. Hubbard and Hopkins. Beef, Pork, Lard, Sausage, Tripe, Smoked Beef, Poultry. Manchester. 1871.



8. M. Cloney. Men's, Boys', and Children's Clothing. Factory Point. 1871.
9. Young and Denio. Tin, Sheet Iron, and Copper Work. Factory Point. 1871.
10. Walker and Jameson. Lard, Sausage, Tripe, Smoked Beef. Factory Point, 1871.
11. Vincent Grover. Apothecary. Drugs, Medicines, Fancy Articles. Factory Point. 187?
12. Bradford, Sykes & Co. Stoves, Tin and Sheet Iron Ware. Factory Point. 1873.
13. L. D. Coy. Dealer, Boots, Shoes, Rubbers, Books, Stationery, and Jewelry. Manchester. 1873.
14. J. B. Hollister. Dealer in Vermont Italian Marble. Factory Point. 1874.
15. John C. Blackmer. Dealer in General Merchandise and Lumber. Manchester Depot. 1875.
16. Bonesteel and Burr. Dry Goods, Groceries and Flour, Hardware, Clothing, Paints, Oils, Notions. Factory Point. 1876.
17. F. D. Giddings & Co. Beef, Pork, Lard, Fresh, Smoked, and Pickled Fish. Groceries, Tobacco, and Cigars. Factory Point, 1877.
18. T. Perkins. Hardware, Building Materials, Paints, Oils. Manchester. 1877.

An 1877 Directory of Manchester lists these merchants also:

19. Wait and Hard. Druggists. Manchester and Factory Point.
20. Cone and Burton. Agricultural Implements. Manchester.
21. D. D. Bourn. Furniture. Manchester Depot.
22. J. M. Russell. Blacksmith. Manchester.
23. George Sessions. Contractor and Builder. Factory Point.
24. A. C. Connor. Restaurant. Manchester Depot.
25. A. R. Coy. Custom Boots and Shoes, Candy and Confectionary. Manchester.
26. Geo. W. Bennett. Decorative Artist. Churches, Halls, and Mansions Frescoed in Encaustic, Oil, or Distemper. Manchester.
27. Mrs. L. D. Stockwell. Millinery Goods. Manchester.
28. A. C. Burr. General Merchandise, Rubber, Paint. Factory Point.
29. George Smith. Florist. Manchester.
30. A. G. Clark. Grain Feed, Leather. Factory Point.
31. H. W. Mattison. Tonsorial Artist. Factory Point.
32. J. A. Thayer. Livery Stable by Colburn House. Factory Point.
33. H. S. Allen. Photographer. Factory Point.

34. S. B. Young. Manufacturer Nest Tin Pails. Jobbing in all its Branches. Factory Point.
35. John T. Beach. Carriage Maker. Factory Point.
36. John S. Bell. Blacksmith. Factory Point.
37. H. L. Blackenread. Tailor. Factory Point.
38. George Dalton. Blacksmith. Manchester.
39. John Harrington. Bakery and Saloon. Factory Point.
40. Omar M. Howe. Shoemaker. Factory Point.
41. E. H. Kelley. Meat Peddler. Factory Point.
42. Stephen T. Kelley. Tinner. Factory Point.
43. Theodore Lewis. Tonsorial Artist. Court House Block. Manchester.
44. Thomas Lugene. Shoemaker. Factory Point.
45. C. B. Munson. Livery. Manchester.
46. L. C. Orvis. Clothing. Furnishing Goods. Manchester.
47. J. M. Shattuck. Photographer. Manchester.
48. C. A. Shattuck. Printer. Manchester.
49. Swallow and Garet. Blacksmiths. Manchester Depot.

Undated letterheads from The Whipple Collection, but probably before 1886, as the name of Factory Point was then changed to Manchester Center :

50. George L. Howard. Watchmaker, Jeweler, Engraver. Factory Point.
51. H. E. Thompson. Dealer in Pianos and Organs. Factory Point.
52. H. Trombly. Dealer in Oysters, Fresh Fish, Sausage. Manchester Depot.
53. N. G. Taylor. Watchmaker, Jeweler, and Engraver. Factory Point.
54. D. S. Wilson. Manufacturer and dealer. Furniture, Coffins and Caskets. Factory Point.
55. Clark and Wait. Druggist and Apothecary. Factory Point.
56. Pettibone & Co. Druggists. Manchester Depot.
57. J. E. Chevalier. Pharmacist. Manchester Center. No date.
58. A. B. Walker & Co. Dealers in Nursery Stock. Manchester. 1879.
59. Burr and Manley. Dealers in General Merchandise. Manchester Depot. 1880.
60. W. C. Lampson. Dealer in the best Sewing Machines, Wagons, Carriages, and Cutters. Manchester. 1881.
61. J. Davis & Son. Stoves, Tin, Glass, Wooden Ware, Hides, Pelts, Wool, Old Metals, and Paper Stock. Peddlers' Supplies and House Fur-

nishing Goods in Variety. Manchester Depot. 1882. Still in business 1895.

62. J. H. Whipple. Meal, Feed, and Mill Stuffs. Manchester Center. 1882.

63. J. H. Bartlett. Dealer in Grate, Stove, Chestnut, and Blacksmith Coal. Factory Point. 1883.

64. Robert Ames. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Flour, Provisions, Crockery, Hardware, Boots, Shoes, Drugs, Notions, etc. Factory Point. 1884. Still in business 1895.

65. C. B. Dunham. Dry Goods, Groceries, Clothing, Hats, Crockery, Boots, Caps, and Shoes. Factory Point. 1884.

66. J. N. Hard. Drugs, Stationery and Fancy Goods. Manchester. 1884. Continued under his son, Walter Hard, until 1935.

67. W. A. Adams. Jeweler, Sewing Machines. Factory Point. 1884.

68. Truman Bentley. Mfr. and Dealer in Harnesses, Whips, Brushes, Combs. Factory Point. 1887.

69. Myron Morse. Meats, Oysters, Groceries. Factory Point. 1887.

70. W. H. Fullerton. Dealer in Foreign, American Marble and Granite. Manchester Depot. 1888.

71. D. F. Merrow & Co. Hardware, Paints, Oils. Manchester Depot. 1888.

72. Pettibone & Co. Dealers in Drugs, Groceries, Meats, and Vegetables. Manchester Depot. 1891.

73. R. Colvin. Mill Feed and Grain. Manchester Center. 1892.

74. J. C. Heinel. Tailor. Manchester Center. 1893.

75. E. O. Bentley. Dealer in All Kinds of Horse Clothing and Supplies. Manchester Center. 1893.

76. William H. Bundy. Dealer in Confectionary, Cigars, and Tobacco. Manchester Center. 1893.

77. Hoyt Spelman. Dealer in General Merchandise. Manchester Center. 1893.

78. A. E. Hamilton. Retailer of Fine Readymade Clothing. Manchester Center. 1894.

79. E. A. Fisher. Hardware, Tinware, and Stoves. Manchester Center. 1894.

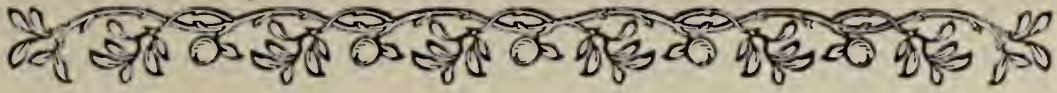
80. A. L. Graves. Dealer in General Merchandise. Ladies', Misses', and Children's Fine Shoes a Specialty. Manchester Center. 1894.

81. A. C. Connor. Dealer in Spruce and Pine Lumber, Coal, Hay, Brick, Cement, Clapboards. Manchester Depot. 1894.

82. Colburn House, Livery and Boarding Stable. J. A. Thayer. Manchester Center. 1895.



83. E. B. Sherman. Hardware, Paints, Oils, and Agricultural Implements. Manchester Depot. 1895.
84. Ora Whitman. Decorator, House, Carriage, and Sign Painter. Paper Hangar. Manchester Center. 1896.
85. Colvin and Houghton. Meal, Feed, and Mill Stuffs. Manchester Center. 1896.
86. J. H. Bonesteel. Dealer in General Merchandise. Manchester Center. 1896.
87. Bayless and Sowle. Drugs and Medicines. Manchester Center. 1896.
88. W. C. Spelman. Central Cash Store. Manchester Center. 1897.
89. Carleton & Eugene. Watchmakers and Jewelers. Manchester Center. 1897.
90. Manchester Construction Co. Electrical Work in all its Branches. Manchester Center. 1897.
91. B. I. Howe. Dealer Fresh and Salt Meats, Poultry, Fish, Oysters, Fruit and Vegetables, Cigars and Tobacco. Manchester Center, 1898.
92. E. R. Carpenter. Horseshoer and Jobber. Manchester Center. 1898.
93. Woodcock and Purdy. Hardware, Iron and Sewer Pipe, Lumber, Paints, Oils, Agricultural Implements, and Farm Machinery. Manchester. 1900.
94. J. H. Scott. Fresh and Salt Meats etc. Vegetables and Oysters in Season. Manchester Center. 1901.
95. B. J. Hebert. Heating & Plumbing. Manchester Center. 1905.
96. George E. Sexton. Dealer in Coal. Manchester Depot. 1910.
97. Harry L. Adams. Optical goods, clock repair. Manchester Center. The business, begun by his father, Warren Adams, has been carried on for ninety-six years.
98. C. E. Young. Shoe Store. Manchester Center. In 1955 Young completed sixty-one years of business, the last thirty of which were in the present location of Purdy's Store.
99. F. H. Heinel. Men's Clothing. Manchester Center. This business has been in the same location sixty-one years.
100. T. J. Healey. Grocery. Manchester Depot. In 1961 this store passed out of family control after fifty-two years.
101. Combination Cash Store. General Merchandise. Manchester Center. This business, begun by Mark Manley, has been in the family since 1909. It is now owned by his son, Howard Manley.
102. Wiley's Grocery Store. Manchester Village. This business was taken over in May 1919 by Leon Wiley from Frank McGuire and Oscar Coy.



## CHAPTER XVIII

### Pill Alley

MANCHESTER in yesteryear had tragedies consistent with the times—workers crushed by water wheels or quarry equipment; fires and agonizing burns caused by accidents with kerosene lamps; riders thrown or tipped into the road by wagons and horses. Alcohol, too, caused trouble in Manchester. About 1840 when the temperance craze arrived, it is said that Truman Purdy, Village tavern keeper, disposed of all his liquor, and Timothy Mead at Factory Point cut down his whole orchard. Anti-saloon leagues for all ages quickly organized.

Manchester has had its share of disease from lack of immunization and from poor sanitation. Luckily, it has also had its share of doctors. In fact, so many doctors resided in the Village on the West Road at one time that it was nicknamed "Pill Alley."

One of the most interesting chapters in Manchester's medical history concerns a doctor who lived here less than two years. From May 1861 until March 1863 Dr. L. H. Sprague operated the "Manchester Water-Cure" in one of the Equinox Junior buildings. A combination boarding house-nursing home, the "Water Cure" attracted many patients from out of town as well as from Manchester. During one week in June 1861 it registered twenty-six guests, more than had been received at either Vanderlip's or the Equinox House.

Sprague, a general practitioner for eighteen years before coming to Manchester, was described as a kind, sympathetic, and skillful physician. Medical application of water through "Electrochemical and Medicated Baths" was his chief remedy for physical and men-

tal ills. He also used homeopathic medicines. An unsolicited letter from a member of the English Royal College of Surgeons said:

The bathing rooms [were] well planned, and the utmost cleanliness and order prevails. I was especially pleased with the Electrochemical apparatus which showed that the Physician was not a mere pretender but a man of Science. If ladies only knew that many of the diseases to which they are peculiarly liable can certainly be cured by the electric baths . . . there would be much less suffering among the fairer and better halves of creation.<sup>1</sup>

Sprague advertised that he "could restore the bloom of Health to many a faded cheek, and effect permanent cure of many diseases which have baffled the skill of ordinary practitioners."<sup>2</sup> He planned to keep his establishment open all winter as "cold weather is favorable for a speedy recovery in many diseases which depend upon a relaxed state of the nervous System and Muscular Fibres."<sup>3</sup>

Mrs. Sprague, mistress of the "Water Cure," was described as pleasant and kind. She supervised the patients at the baths, which were amply supplied with hot and cold water. The boarding house boasted a dance hall and gymnasium "as good as any in the State." Dr. Sprague certainly appeared to have "made a little Bethesda in Manchester."<sup>4</sup>

Manchester's worst epidemic came in the fall of 1918 when the town, in common with the rest of the world, was struck by influenza. As many as four persons in some families became ill. Many died and though the Manchester Nursing Association and the American Red Cross worked together, little could be done to alleviate the stricken town until the disease had run its course.

The *History of Bennington County* published in 1889 explains that Vermont, unlike many states, required no register of practicing physicians and therefore "no record exists from which names can be taken." However, a fragmentary record of Manchester physicians can be drawn from old books, newspapers, and letterheads. Doctors Lewis H. and Lewis E. Hemenway are recognized for other achieve-

1. *Manchester Journal*, July 9, 1861.

2. *Manchester Journal*, July 16, 1861.

3. *Manchester Journal*, November 12, 1861.

4. *Manchester Journal*, August 13, 1861.



ments, as well as those in medicine, in the biographical section of this history.

Dr. Azel Washburn appears to have been the town's first doctor. He is listed on the Revolutionary payrolls in 1776 as a "surgeon." Judge John S. Pettibone praised him as "an excellent physician."

Dr. John Page was also one of Manchester's first doctors. He came here in 1777.

Dr. Lewis Beebe was in Manchester in 1780 and took an active part in the town's early history while serving as surgeon in the militia. He was a corporator and the first secretary of the first medical society in Vermont. He was a member of the Council of Censors in 1785. He left Manchester about 1787.

Dr. William Gould was a Yale graduate who built a house in the Village. He is responsible for having planted the many huge elms which once stood on either side of "The Street." He lived here about 1780.

Dr. Ezra Isham (March 15, 1773-1835) came to Manchester from Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1798. According to Judge Pettibone, he "possessed talents of a high character."

Dr. Elijah Littlefield (1775-1827) built the Hawley (pink) house in the Village in 1805. He held a surgeon's commission in the regular army during the War of 1812 and practiced in Manchester both before and after the war. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1814 and represented Manchester in the Legislature for three years.

Dr. George Tuttle (December 31, 1798-July 24, 1866) read medicine with Dr. Thomas Woodward. He began practicing in 1823 and was at Factory Point in 1824.

Dr. Elias J. Marks practiced in Manchester about 1840.

Dr. R. J. Burton practiced at Factory Point about 1843.

Dr. R. Button was a dentist with an office at Thayer's Hotel, Factory Point, about 1861. He was also active in the musical life of the town.

Dr. J. E. Hitt was a physician and surgeon at Factory Point about 1861.

Dr. Ezra Edson (1809-April 14, 1884) was a student of the celebrated Dr. Thompson. Edson practiced at Factory Point as a botanic physician for over forty years. He was moderator of town meeting in 1865 and otherwise prominent in community affairs.

Dr. George L. Ames was a physician and surgeon who practiced three doors east of the Baptist church at Factory Point about 1861. He was examining physician for Civil War pensions in this part of Vermont. Though he died in Michigan, a monument was erected in his honor in

Dellwood Cemetery. His son, Joseph S. Ames, born in Manchester, was president emeritus of Johns Hopkins University at the time of his death in 1943 and was one of the nation's greatest authorities on aerodynamics.

Dr. Benjamin F. Ketchum was a physician and surgeon with an office on the main street in the Village about 1861. He was the first treasurer of the Bennington County Medical Society which organized September 11, 1861. He left town late in 1866.

Dr. Ezra B. Francisco (1818-1863) was practicing here in 1862 and probably much earlier, later moving to Whitehall, New York. His patients are said to have admired him greatly. His home in Manchester was the present Orvis Inn.

Charles F. Orvis was a member of the outstanding Manchester family who are described in the biographical section of this history. Among his many other enterprises, he opened an office as surgeon-dentist in the Village about 1863.

Dr. J. S. Osman came from Greenwich, New York, to open an office in the Court House as early as October 1863. It is said that "he handled the knife on human flesh as any mechanic would on material before him." He left Manchester in April 1871.

Dr. D. H. Meacham ( —June 14, 1883) practiced here about 1864 as a physician and surgeon with "particular attention paid to Extracting or Filling Teeth." He later went to Wallingford.

Dr. Seneca Sherman Clemons (January 23, 1842-June 18, 1911) was graduated from the University of Vermont Medical College in 1865 and began practicing at Factory Point in November of that year. He was appointed medical examiner for invalid pensioners before medical boards were set up by the government. He was still practicing here in 1877.

Dr. James F. Stone was graduated from Williams College and the Bellevue Medical College, New York. He came here in March 1866 to practice with Dr. Ames.

Dr. G. C. Raynolds was a graduate of Williams College and was trained in New York hospitals. He opened an office as physician and surgeon over the Equinox Store in the Village in May 1866.

Dr. Ralph Thacher was an early physician about whom no information is known.

Dr. James W. Marsh (October 15, 1839-December 9, 1925) was a graduate of the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, Ohio. He had an office in East Dorset about 1874, later moving to Manchester Center. An eclectic physician, he specialized in the treatment of cancerous diseases. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Helen Fowler, now living at Manchester Depot.

Dr. Edmond L. Wyman (June 27, 1843–September 27, 1934) was the son of Peter and Lucina (Way) Wyman, his father having come to work in the local quarries in the 1830s. He was forced to leave college in his freshman year due to failing eyesight, but later read medicine with Dr. L. H. Hemenway. He was a graduate of Burr and Burton Seminary, Williams College, and in 1875, the New York Homeopathic Medical College. He was president of Factory Point National Bank, Vermont Homeopathic Medical Society, and the Burr and Burton Seminary Board of Trustees. He was a trustee of Dellwood Cemetery, superintendent of schools in Manchester, and a justice of the peace. As the only homeopathic physician between Bennington and Rutland for some years, he made his Manchester rounds by horse earliest in the day, later taking trains north and south to visit the sick of other communities. After 1877 he had an office at Factory Point at his residence. Upon his death, the *Manchester Journal* said, "The doctor is gone, but the memory of him in his 'Prince Albert' coat riding on his two-wheeled gig will remain a long time. And so will the bottle of sugar pills he always carried for the delectation of children."

Dr. P. S. Loomis was a dental surgeon at Factory Point about 1877.

Dr. G. J. Crowley was a physician and surgeon at the Village about 1877.

Dr. George H. Swift was a dentist in Manchester from about 1877 until 1887. His office was in the Perkins block opposite the Music Hall in the Village. He spent the second week of each month traveling to Bondville, Jamaica, Weston, South Londonderry, and Townshend to attend patients there.

Dr. Edgar Valentine Trull (August 26, 1854–April 23, 1940) was graduated from Union University Medical Department in 1877 and read medicine in Cohoes, New York, where he practiced before coming to Manchester in the late 1870s. He was a specialist in lung, throat, and chronic diseases and had an office in "Pill Alley" opposite the schoolhouse. He retired in 1937.

Oscar Cowles and John P. Lake (May 9, 1884–September 29, 1955) were both veterinarians here in the early 1900s, having started their practice before degrees and licenses were required by law.

Dr. John F. Page (1850–1907) was a veterinary surgeon who attended the University of Vermont veterinary department and was graduated from the New York Veterinary College. A principal stockholder and a member of the board of directors of the Battenkill Valley Industrial Association, he owned some of the best race horses in the country. He was Worthy Master, Battenkill Valley Grange.



Dr. Frank E. Whipple (March 12, 1857–September 18, 1924) was a general practitioner in Manchester about 1900.

Dr. Linwood M. Kelly (February 17, 1877–February 20, 1941) was a graduate of the University of Vermont Medical College. He began practicing in Manchester in 1904. He was commissioned a major in the Medical Reserve Corps during World War I and left Manchester for some time, returning in 1930.

Dr. Leroy E. Pierce, who still lives in the Village, opened his dental office in the fall of 1901. He retired from practice in 1952.

Dr. James L. Lovejoy was born about 1881. He practiced here before World War I and afterwards, from 1921 through December 1926. He was commissioned a captain in the Medical Reserve Corps and was connected with the hospital at Verdun, France. He was a leader of the Manchester Union Band for three years.

Dr. Luther J. Calahan (June 8, 1886–January 25, 1951) was graduated from the University of Vermont Medical College. He practiced here from 1905 until 1917 and again after the war until about 1923. His office was at Manchester Depot. He and Dr. Lovejoy were given a community send-off into army life. He was gassed at the front as battalion surgeon, received a citation for bravery under fire from General Pershing, and was decorated by King Albert of Belgium.

Dr. Henry W. Eliot (February 27, 1866–October 21, 1944) was a graduate of the University of Vermont Medical College. He came to Manchester in 1918 to be the Bennington County district health officer. After the system was abolished, he remained in Manchester to practice and became the local health officer. Following service in the Spanish-American War, he remained in the Philippines on the insular board of health. During World War I he was commissioned a major in the Medical Corps. In 1925 Eliot discontinued his Manchester practice to go to East Arlington. He returned to Manchester at a later date.

Dr. Claude M. Campbell (August 17, 1873–April 21, 1950) was graduated from the University of Vermont Medical College and was further trained at the Post-Graduate and Lying-In Hospitals in New York. He practiced fifteen years in Rochester, Vermont, before coming to Manchester in 1915. A member of the State Board of Health for ten years and president of the Bennington County Medical Society in 1947, Dr. Campbell was also a trustee of Burr and Burton Seminary, and vice-president of Factory Point National Bank. He was personal physician to Robert Todd Lincoln. In August 1949, on completion of fifty years as a doctor, the entire community tendered Dr. Campbell a reception. He was so deeply revered by Manchester that every school and business closed at the time of his funeral services.

Dr. John I. Cochrane was a physician who took Dr. Lovejoy's place here during World War I. He was still practicing here in 1922.

Dr. Eugene Pond was a specialist in genito-urinary disturbances and women's diseases who practiced here about 1920.

Dr. S. E. Lawton (—September 18, 1924) was a physician who practiced here between 1900 and 1924.

Dr. Edwin K. Treat is a veterinarian still practicing at Manchester Depot. A graduate of Ohio State University, he came to Manchester in 1935 to do tuberculosis eradication work for the government. In 1939 he was president of the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, and is now on the executive board. He is a native of Blandford, Massachusetts.

Dr. Arthur C. Pratt was graduated from Bucknell College and Tufts Medical School (1937). He practiced in Manchester from 1941 until late in 1947.

Dr. Robert D. Curtis was Manchester health officer from 1942 until 1944.

Dr. Mason B. Barney is a graduate of Rutland High School and Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery, Kirksville, Missouri. He also attended the University of New Hampshire and Northeastern University. He opened an office in the Village in 1943 as osteopathic physician, but now practices at Manchester Center. He was vice-president of the Vermont State Association of Osteopathic Physicians in 1951 and president in 1952. He is now health officer in Manchester.

Dr. Esther Parry Barney (May 12, 1917–July 29, 1949) was also an osteopathic physician who began practicing in Manchester in 1943. She was appointed health officer of the town by the State Board of Health upon the resignation of Dr. Curtis.

Dr. E. J. Wilson was a veterinary assistant to Dr. Edwin K. Treat from 1944 to 1946.

Dr. Clifford B. Harwood was born in Rupert, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Harwood, and attended Rupert schools and the Granville (N. Y.) High School. He was graduated from the University of Vermont (1934) and the University of Vermont Medical College (1937). After interning at the Mary Fletcher Hospital in 1938, he became general practitioner in Whitingham until July 1941. He was discharged from the U. S. Army as a captain in August 1945 and opened a general practice in Manchester in November. He was president of the Bennington County Medical Society in 1949.

Dr. Francis E. Harrigan was graduated from the University of Vermont Medical College in 1942 and interned at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D. C. He was a fighter squadron surgeon four

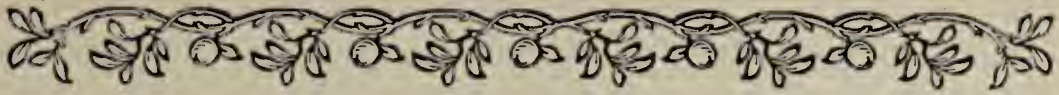
years in the southwest Pacific theater of war. Before opening an office in Manchester as a general practitioner in September 1948, Dr. Harrigan was resident staff member of the Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester, Connecticut. In 1949 he was vice-president of the Bennington County Medical Society.

Dr. Ilsley Zecher was graduated from New York University in 1923 with the degree of dental surgeon. He spent two and a half years with Sir Wilfred Grenfell on the Labrador coast in charge of dentistry. He practiced fifteen years in Ridgewood, New Jersey, was a staff member seventeen years at Christ Hospital, Jersey City, and was school dentist twelve years in Ho-ho-kus before coming to Manchester to practice in November 1950. His office is at Manchester Center.

Dr. Robert J. Fisk was graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy, Green Mountain College, and Tufts Dental College. He was discharged as captain from the U. S. Army Air Force in September 1952. In October he began the practice of dentistry in Manchester Village succeeding Dr. L. E. Pierce.

Dr. William Loomis is a native of Bennington, Vermont. He was graduated from Bennington High School, Dartmouth College, Dartmouth College Medical School, and the Cornell University Medical College. After interning at the Mary Hitchcock Hospital, Hanover, New Hampshire, he served as medical officer in the U. S. Navy on the U.S.S. *Tanner*. Dr. Loomis opened an office as general practitioner in Manchester Center in 1959, moving to the Village in 1960.





## CHAPTER XIX

### “Devoted to Foreign and Domestic Intelligence . . .”

THE present successful *Manchester Journal* was the fourth of five attempts to establish a newspaper in Manchester. The *Vermont Gazette* in Bennington was taken locally in the 1780s for the price of three bushels of wheat. In fact, the Manchester Proprietors in early May 1784 directed that an advertisement warning delinquents who hadn't paid for their land lots be placed in the *Gazette* for a three-week period.

The first newspaper actually published in Manchester was the *Horn of the Green Mountains* in March 1830. A year later, the owner, Edward C. Purdy, sold the business to G. A. Strong & Company. An early *Manchester Journal* reported that the *Horn* was transferred to a neighboring village because of rivalry despite the fact that Manchester fully appreciated the newspaper “and its efficiency.”

A second attempt to publish locally was during the fall campaign of 1836 when Martin Van Buren and the hero of Tippecanoe struggled for supremacy in the national government. This was the *Vermont Express*, a short-lived journal that published only three “sharp and spirited” issues. Though edited in Manchester by Ahiman Miner, the *Express* was printed in Salem, New York. Miner was the local lawyer who spoke on the same Whig convention program with Daniel Webster in Stratton.

Manchester's third newspaper, the *Bennington County Whig*, naturally espoused the Whig cause. According to its editorial pledge it was “Devoted to Politics, Foreign and Domestic Intelligence, Morality, Temperance, Literature, and the Mercantile, Mechanical,

and Agricultural Interests” of the community. B. C. Crandall of Salem, New York, began publication in the spring of 1837 in a second floor office in the brick store which stood opposite the Court House in the Village on what is now Equinox House property. After a few weeks of publishing Whiggery every Wednesday, Crandall ran away to parts unknown. This was much to the discomfort of a number of citizens who painfully realized that their loss was his gain.

Orlando Squires followed in the editorial chair, and in 1838 he was succeeded by the printer, John C. Osborn, who made both the size of the newspaper and its lofty slogan smaller. He also added another of his own—“The Liberty of the Press and the Liberty of the People Must Stand or Fall Together.” Unfortunately, the newspaper folded up in 1839.

The *Manchester Journal*, a Republican weekly with a present circulation of 1,700, was begun May 28, 1861 by Charles A. Pierce, who came here from Brattleboro. His hope in establishing the newspaper was “to assist the national government in its noble effort of putting down the rebellion.”<sup>1</sup> His first editorial said:

Why, then, should this fair valley where Providence has so lavishly bestowed its choicest presents, hallowed too by cherished reminiscences of state and national renown, and never before more prosperous in the enterprise and intelligence of its inhabitants longer fail to participate directly in the formation of public sentiment or continue longer to find a voice only in the organs of sister communities?

Thus was the *Journal* born, now in its centennial year of publication. The first office occupied the same rooms as its predecessor, the *Bennington County Whig*. In May 1864 the publishing office was moved to rooms in a new building on the east side of the street which had just been finished by F. H. Orvis. This was on the corner of Union Street, where a drugstore was soon after established on the first floor and still remains. A post office was also here for a time. The *Journal*’s quarters apparently extended into the adjacent building, as the pressroom is said to have been in the old Manchester jail. In 1884 the location was known as the Manchester Hotel and now, as the Equinox Junior.

1. *Manchester Journal*, April 11, 1911.

In 1907 the newspaper moved to rooms on the second floor of the new post office building built by Walter Hard and his mother, Mrs. Jesse Hard, further down Union Street on the north side. The *Journal* vacated these premises in 1959, when it moved to a newly built plant on Memorial Avenue at Manchester Center.

The first *Journals* were published in a relatively small format every Tuesday at the subscription rate of \$1.50 and were sent post-paid within the county. The size of type and quality of paper appear excellent. Though the outer pages carried "literary" articles, the inner pages were filled with lively pertinent local information and the war issues made exciting reading. An occasional local "poet" who sent in war verse received the distinction of appearing on page one.

The *Middlebury Register* spoke of the *Journal* as being "a sprightly little weekly sheet published by C. A. Pierce and principally edited by H. E. Miner, Esq., a recent graduate of Middlebury College. These are enterprising young men and well worthy of the patronage they receive in publication of their journal."

Editor Miner, also an attorney in the firm of his father, "A. L. Miner & Son," went on trial May 31, 1862 at the Court House for assaulting on the steps of Vanderlip's Hotel a man who had spoken traitorously against the Union. A somewhat unprecedented case, the entire trial was published in the *Journal* and the situation was reviewed editorially in several other Vermont papers. The jury rendered the following verdict—"Not guilty and the jury would recommend to all loyal citizens to go and do likewise." Miner's victory was hailed "with the cheers and shouts of the assembled audience."<sup>2</sup> Enlisting promptly in the Union Army, Miner never returned to Manchester. He was discharged before the war's end and died, aged twenty-six, a clerk in the Pensions Office, Washington, D.C.

Miner should be greatly credited with the early success of the *Manchester Journal*. By August of that first year, circulation had reached 2,200 and continued to increase. "There need be no fears of our 'early decease'," he wrote. "We shall commence the second volume in a new and enlarged form, at which date we expect to be

2. *Manchester Journal*, June 10, 1862.



a 'leettle ahead' of anything 'in our line'." This was a reference to the *Bennington Banner*, the *Journal's* leading competitor, which was seeking new subscribers.

In August 1862 Pierce and Harrison Prindle, an associate editor, "laid aside quill and scissors" to take up "that more serviceable weapon . . . the musket." With three editors off to war, the Rev. James Anderson, Congregational pastor, stepped in and the paper immediately assumed a more scholarly and dignified air. Arrangements were made with the local telegraph office whereby latest war intelligence would reach the newspaper.

Young Loveland Munson, studying law, served as Anderson's assistant and was thus able to develop his unusual literary skill and to pay for his studies. Leonard Sargeant, the Manchester lawyer who later became Lieutenant Governor of Vermont, followed Anderson as editor in April 1863. In the summer, Charles Pierce returned, disabled by war, to his newspaper. During that difficult time, Munson and Sargeant served as co-editors.

Together they proposed to publish daily another sheet in an effort to bring all the fresh war news to the public. The newspaper, which was to include full telegraphic reports, would be sent to towns "south of Manchester by the early train."<sup>3</sup> The cost was to be fifty cents monthly. However, no copies of this "extra" are available and the only evidence that it was ever published appeared in a *Journal* during October 1863. The editor then commented that the printers evidently had enjoyed their holiday, for they set up the masthead to read *Green Freeman Mountain* instead of *Green Mountain Freeman*, which was, it is believed, the title of that wartime sheet.

In the fall Munson took over alone as editor. Increased costs due to war forced him to publish a smaller format. His editorials were long, profound, and well-written, an early prophecy of the distinguished career as writer, speaker, and judge that was to follow.

In 1865 Everett W. Pierce purchased a working interest in his brother's newspaper and the firm, which had also begun quantity job printing, assumed the title, "C. A. Pierce & Co." Correspondents were sought from each town in the county and though the size of the newspaper was enlarged, the quality of paper used was poor.

3. *Manchester Journal*, July 1863.

In 1870 the Pierce brothers, after trying for two years, bought the *Bennington Banner*. The operation of two newspapers, however, proved taxing and on January 10, 1871 the *Manchester Journal* was sold to Franklin H. Orvis, who proceeded to rescue it from a dwindling circulation. He promised to make the *Journal* "a reliable independent journal of the times" and said of the former owners:

The Pierce Boys when mere boys started the *Journal* with \$40 borrowed capital and a few type bought on credit from the office where they had been employed. They leave the *Journal* office well stocked with power presses, newspaper and job type, and all the materials for running a first class country establishment. They are still the owners of two good houses and lots in our village and we predict the *Banner*, under their management, will prove a success—that they will make friends in Bennington and pay all their bills as they have here.

This was a sample of the peppy writing Orvis employed to boost circulation. Plenty of "live" news appeared in the newspaper with shorter editorials and a change of policy. "Our advertising columns," he promised, "will be filled with *respectable* live advertisements, not bogus lottery schemes, gift swindles, questionable quack medicines, and the like."

In March 1871 publication day was changed to Wednesday and in June, David K. Simonds was hired as assistant editor. Orvis, leaving the editorial problems to Simonds, threw himself into the financial department of the newspaper with all the fervor that characterized his other business undertakings in Manchester. Within four months circulation reached 3,000. He boasted of subscribers in nearly every state with a very large list in New York and other cities. Advertising receipts doubled. Thus the *Manchester Journal*, which had been established under discouraging circumstances, prospered beyond expectations. Orvis, however, decided to drop the *Journal* and tackle new business challenges.

On September 28, 1871 D. K. Simonds purchased the *Journal*, the beginning of a long, fruitful, and influential career as editor. Possessing sound judgment and "a moral courage that never flinched from legitimate discussion," he was "a born editor," the type required by old-time papers. Having written several books on the subject, anonymously, Simonds was noted for his wit which occasionally appeared in his columns. He bade his readers in one spring

issue to "take the string, the bended pin, and tantalize the speckled trout." As secretary of the Battenkill Valley Industrial Society, Simonds gave excellent coverage every fall to the Manchester Fair. Every winner had his name in the paper and the listing sometimes occupied several pages.

During those years, the *Journal* still carried no actual news on its outer pages except for the occasional printing of newly passed Vermont law. The inner pages, however, included much advertising and were strong editorially on national and state affairs.

Simonds minced few words and often exhibited more nonobjective editorial feeling in his news columns than modern journalism would allow. When the Hon. Mark Skinner died in 1887, his friend, Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, conducted the funeral. While in Manchester, he was also asked to preach in church, about which Simonds said:

We devoted considerable space to Moody's sermon and then have to leave out a portion of it. He usually preaches short discourses, but this one occupied an hour and a half and he is a rapid speaker. One must hear him to get the full force of the sermon and many who do hear him are disappointed, their expectations being raised too high.

In May 1905, after thirty-four years as editor, Simonds sold the *Journal* to Otto R. Bennett, stating:

Mr. Bennett is a practical printer, is in the prime of life and a man of energy and he will devote his full time to the business. We are very sure that the patrons of the *Journal* will suffer no loss. . . .

Bennett, a native of Manchester, not only knew the town well, but had also spent three years' apprenticeship on the *Bennington Banner* under the Pierce brothers and an additional seventeen years at the printer's trade in New York City.

Shortly after assuming ownership, he advertised for a boy to apprentice himself to the *Journal*. Within a few days, Lester H. Thompson, barefooted and very young, answered the ad. Thirty-five years later, he was president of the company, his work having been chiefly in the mechanical end of the business. He was an expert craftsman and natural-born machinist and it is said that on the



complicated machine where he spent most of his time there was nothing that baffled him or that he could not fix.<sup>4</sup>

In May 1922, the Manchester Printing Company, including ownership of the *Manchester Journal*, was incorporated by Bennett and Thompson together with the proprietor's son, George Stewart Bennett, who became managing editor at the time. Otto Bennett continued as editor-in-chief and president of the corporation until his retirement in December 1940, when he was succeeded by Lester H. Thompson. G. S. Bennett became president on Thompson's death in 1948. In 1952 he was Vermont State Chairman of the National Editorial Association and the following year, president of the Vermont Press Association. He now owns the business in partnership with his wife, Ethel, and Roger B. Hurley.

Two major columnists of the *Journal*, in addition to the editor himself, are Walter Hard, Manchester poet, and Berniece Graham, teacher-poet-book reviewer. Hard began his column called "Fouls and Base Hits" in 1926 under the pseudonym, "DRAH." It also appears weekly in the *Rutland Herald* under another title. He always presents a lengthy poem written especially for the issue. Mrs. Graham, writing under the nom de plume of "Suzanne" since 1938, offers a weekly merchandising column interspersed with commentary on community matters.

An earlier columnist, popular during the first years of the century, was Andrus L. Bowen of East Dorset, who wrote under the pen name of "SI CLONE." He possessed a singularly facile pen and caustic manner of commentary upon the local scene. "There was nothing he would not say—in the most engaging manner. . . . The foibles of human nature were fully apparent to him and he exposed them unsparingly, with a quite devastating wit. He was by profession a painter and photographer."<sup>5</sup>

Bowen always referred to Manchester Depot and Center as Sodom and Joppa and to the Village as Gomorrah. Many of his columns can still be found among the scrapbook clippings of the town's older citizens. He once expressed his philosophy as a writer for the *Journal* accordingly:

4. *Manchester Journal*, March 4, 1948.

5. Zephine Humphrey, *Story of Dorset* (Rutland, 1924), pp. 257, 258.

I have had several old sinners come to me and complain because I noticed them in my "parables" and several of them I had never thought of but the "coat fitted and they put it on." One old fellow says its lots of fun to read them when the hit is on the other fellow but when he is hit he don't laugh worth a cent. I don't intend to hurt either their feelings or their character, and I never use personalities. I do not hide my light under a bushel neither do I carry my cider home under hay or my rum in a bottle marked chloroform, and I have my opinion of a man who prays loudly in the evening meetings and then follows the girls and their fellows, sneaking behind to hear what they say, while his wife is entertaining the town gossips until he comes home and reports the news.

Manchester's only other newspaper was published between November 19, 1899 and April 1901 by the editor-owner, Elmer E. Whitman. This was the *Vermont Advance*, which was published on Saturdays and advertised itself as printing "All the Golf, Hotel, Society, and Cottage News." The *Advance* apparently had several offices, the first of which was in the basement of Davis & Son, Manchester Depot. Another was "just south of the Colburn House bridge."

Though it called itself an "independent newspaper," the *Advance* obviously favored the Republican party and its editorials were mostly political in nature. The inside pages contained mostly syndicated-type articles of general interest, while the outer pages offered fresh, lively news, much of which was contributed by paid correspondents. John Morton Marbury covered the Village news. He was the grandson of Charles F. Orvis. Andrus L. Bowen began his journalistic career on the *Vermont Advance* as reporter from the "Dorset Valley."



## CHAPTER XX

### Libraries

THERE is evidence that a library, name and location unknown, existed in Manchester as early as 1828 because of correspondence concerning its bylaws between John Aiken, Esq., of the Village and the Hon. Myron Clark of Factory Point. Aiken recommended that the length of time for keeping books be extended from two months to three.

Prior to his death in 1853, Josiah Burton, at the suggestion of the Rev. James Anderson of the Congregational church, planned in his will to establish the Burton Pastoral Library. A corporation was formed in 1855 for the administration of the \$800 bequest, one-fourth of which was to be used immediately for suitable books and periodicals for the minister's library. The remainder was placed at interest with the annual income expended for increasing the collection. The voting membership of this corporation was and still is composed of all male members of the Congregational church over twenty-one years of age, who meet following the annual church meeting. By 1900 the Burton Pastoral Library numbered over 1,000 volumes. Though sectarian in nature, it has always been available to anyone.

In 1862 the Rev. Anderson, still leading the intellectual life of the community as pastor and wartime editor of the *Manchester Journal*, urged the inclusion of library rooms in the new Orvis building that was being constructed on the corner of Union Street in the Village. Though it is perhaps not what he had in mind, the Manchester Agricultural Library Association was organized and



three years later met in that building. Officers of that library were H. K. Fowler, president; W. R. Dean, vice-president; George L. Ames, secretary; C. F. Orvis, treasurer and librarian.

Within a decade Manchester really became library-minded. Citizens of Factory Point held a social at Adams Hall to begin such a project in 1871. About the same time, Mrs. Ahiman L. Miner organized a ladies' circulating library in the Village which temporarily lent books around to its members.

Probably Manchester's first "public" library existed at the Center in the back room of the Ondawa Fish and Game Club in the Howe block. Since the Howe block burned in December 1893, the "Library of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew" must have existed before that date. Open every Saturday afternoon from two to four o'clock, the library allowed books to be taken for three cents per book "by all responsible persons over ten years of age, resident in the town of Manchester and personally known to the Librarian."

Manchester's pride is the Mark Skinner Library. Given by Mrs. Frances Skinner Willing in memory of her father, this private institution is entrusted to the care of a large board of trustees and the immediate supervision of Anna B. Buck, who has been librarian forty-two years. Librarians preceding Miss Buck have been Clara Hemenway (1897-1898); Clara M. Chamberlain Howard (1898-1908); and Eleanor Eggleston (1908-1919).

The corporation was set up to consist of eleven members, five to be residents of Manchester and all but five, residents of Vermont. There is also a committee of administration which consists of not more than eighteen persons, none of whom are to be members of the corporation. Nine of these must be Manchester residents and twelve, residents of the north shire of Bennington County. Annual meetings are held the last Wednesday in August. Original members of the corporation were Frances S. Willing, Henry J. Willing, Edward S. Isham, Ambrose Cramer (all of Chicago, Illinois), Loveland Munson, Samuel G. Cone, Franklin H. Orvis, Jesse N. Hard, Allen L. Graves, Eli J. Hawley, and David K. Simonds (all of Manchester).

Mrs. Willing conceived the idea of establishing a library in Manchester in memory of Mark Skinner as early as 1889 and the matter was afterwards the subject of much consideration and consultation. The work on the building began in 1895 and on Wednesday morn-

ing, July 7, 1897, she had the pleasure of attending the exercises opening the library. The Rev. Dr. P. S. Pratt of Dorset was presiding officer and the following young men from Manchester ushered—Carl Cleghorn, Lewis Hemenway, Russell Hoyt, John Marbury, Lewis Orvis, William Spelman, Mark Skinner Willing, and George Smythe. Music was by the Village choir under B. Sherman Fowler of New York with singing by the Misses Hoyt and D. J. Griffith, accompanied by John C. Whipple. Judge Loveland Munson and the Hon. Edward Swift Isham gave addresses and Sarah N. Cleghorn read a special poem written for the occasion.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication was celebrated July 13, 1922 with the presentation of \$2,500 in bonds to the permanent fund by Mrs. Willing's sisters, Elizabeth and Frederika Skinner. Clara Hemenway, the first librarian, was present and Sarah Cleghorn read another poem. Greetings from the Dorset Library written by Zephine Humphrey Fahnestock were read by Mrs. Loveland Munson.

At the fiftieth anniversary, July 7, 1947, five were present who attended the first dedication—Mrs. Munson, Walter Hard, Mrs. Grace Hoyt, Russell Hoyt, and Miss Katherine Perkins. Dorothy Canfield Fisher gave the address followed by the reading of Miss Cleghorn's poem by Walter Hard and singing by the Burr and Burton Seminary Glee Club.

Frances Willing, having a great knowledge of books and excellent judgment, had definite ideas about an ideal library. Although her health did not permit frequent attendance, she kept herself constantly advised as to the Library's success and requirements. At the time of its dedication, the Library contained 12,000 volumes. Mrs. Willing decreed that literature relating to the social and political history, physical geography, and natural history of Vermont, New England, and America, giving priority to those regions in the order named, be a special feature. Most of her father's personal library which centered on these subjects was given to the Manchester institution. She closely followed the regular book purchases and often supplemented them with gifts of expensive publications. She herself was an author, having published, among other books, *Dame Heraldry*, in 1886.

Mrs. Willing required that no part of the endowment or income

from it was to be used for buying books. The book fund was to be derived exclusively from the public through the sale of library cards and the presentation of frequent and elaborate entertainments. "The growth and development of the library in new books depends, therefore, entirely on the people for whose benefit it was instituted, and it remains for them to justify Mrs. Willing's faith and to work actively for the library's advancement and their own."<sup>1</sup>

The first and only appeal for financial assistance occurred in 1943 when the need became serious; the response was prompt and generous. A major contribution which saved the library from appealing for town funds was the gift of Mrs. Parmalee Prentice in memory of her husband.

In 1900 the library trustees authorized that books be deposited in other smaller and more remote villages of the north shire of Bennington County to be used under the same regulations as those of the main library. For short periods, a Bondville branch was in existence under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Currier and also branches at Manchester Center and Depot.

The Mark Skinner Library now possesses over 30,000 volumes. Its present trustees are: Claude A. Rich, president; James B. Campbell, vice-president; Mrs. Esther Shaw, second vice-president; Earle E. Storrs, treasurer; Mrs. Helen Bigelow, secretary; Walter R. Hard; Stanley B. Ineson; Henry B. Robinson; Mrs. Ethel Bennett; Richard C. Overton; Mrs. Myrtle Bullock.

1. *Manchester Journal*, August 9, 1906.





## CHAPTER XXI

# Recreational Activities

THE 1939 Town Report carried a cover advertising Manchester as "The Oldest Recreational Center in New England."

As early as 1830, balls or "convivial assemblies" were held in Manchester hotels and by 1849 local people were on the committees of arrangements for New Year's and Thanksgiving balls at the West River, Warner's, and the Green Mountain Hotels in Londonderry, Landgrove, and Winhall. Because of poor transportation, these affairs began in the late afternoon and ended in the early evening.

Most of the Village entertainments, prior to construction of the Equinox House Music Hall in 1868, were held in the Court House. The Music Hall, built and handsomely furnished at an expense of \$16,000, provided an excellent place for most of the dances, annual receptions, and parties. One, a Grand Masquerade Ball in 1872, required seventy-six men on the committee of arrangements and twelve, headed by Charles F. Orvis, on the committee of introductions. Over 1,000 invitations were issued and over 125 couples came to the ball. A costumer from Albany was on hand as well as Doring's Quadrille Band from Troy. The supper, served by Manchester ladies, was supervised by the Equinox House steward, N. H. Perkins.

Some of the other groups providing music for these affairs were the Equinox Parlor Orchestra, the Y.M.C.A. Orchestra of Bennington, and Wells Quadrille Band of Rutland. Proceeds were generally "Devoted to a Benevolent Object."

Burr and Burton Seminary junior proms and many amateur

theatricals were customarily held at the Music Hall. Many of the latter were performed by a group called the "Equinox Crowd" which numbered among its members, Charles Sumner Robinson, Molly Prentice (Porter), Grace and Frances Hoyt, Herbert Kelcey, Effie Shannon, and Elsie Wolfe. In addition to its fine stage, the Music Hall had a bowling alley in the basement.

In August 1877 "the musicians and singers of Manchester, . . . after weeks of patient preparation" presented "Esther: A Sacred Cantata" with Mrs. D. K. Simonds, pianist. Other entertainments included stereopticon shows, shadow pantomimes, humorous and dramatic recitals, variety shows, and tableaux such as "Red Riding Hood" and "Bluebeard and His Wives." In 1882 the Factory Point Dramatic Company presented "The Gun Maker of Moscow" and "The Stage Struck Yankee" with the aid of Whitcomb's String Band from Cambridge, New York.

Estabrook's Opera House at Factory Point, now the bank block, served a similar purpose for that part of town. It was opened in May 1884. Besides being a boarding establishment with a dining room or confectionary, Estabrook's offered a roller skating rink on the upper floor. Patrons were invited to use "The Best Floor in the State"—two hours for ten cents. The "Burgess Livery" carried parties of eight or more from the Village to the rink. There was always "live" music—the Farmer's Cornet Band, Bowen's Rink Band, or Weeks' Band from Pawlet. Fancy skating exhibitions were performed by Professor L. H. Bean and Miss Lula Wells.

The Opera House was also used for dances and theatricals. About 1887 the Boston Opera Company performed. Later, Josh Billings, a "serio-comic lecturer," gave monologues—"The Flea, A Brisk Package" and "The First Baby, Too Sweet for Anything."

Probably the best thing about Estabrook's was the dining room, which offered exotic foods out of season—figs, peaches, sweet potatoes, ice cream, strawberries, and oysters "received direct from their Fair Haven beds."

Estabrook's burned in 1893 and was rebuilt as the Union Opera House in 1896. The first event was a Thanksgiving ball. An untold number of community programs and benefits have been given there including the popular Union Club minstrels given annually about the time of World War I and such Eastern Star ventures as "Last





The Mark Skinner Library, given in memory of her father by Mrs. Frances Skinner Willing.



The Manchester Fair (looking south from the present location of the Rod and Gun Club), circa 1880.





"Hildene," residence of the Hon. Robert Todd Lincoln. The estate is now the home of his granddaughter, Miss Mary Lincoln Beckwith.



*Above:* Vanderlip's Hotel, Manchester Village, circa 1850. As the "Taconic" it was later merged with the Equinox House. *Left:* Equinox House as it appeared before being merged with the Taconic Hotel to make the hotel as we know it today.





"Tip-Top House" was situated on the "Lookout" or "North Point" of Mount Equinox and was reached by a carriage road from the Sandgate notch along the top of the ridge. It was operated by Peter Bowman. The high point in the rear was occupied by the United States Government Signal Station in the 1870s.



First clubhouse of the Ekwanok Country Club. It was erected in the summer of 1900 and burned October 25, 1938.



Present clubhouse of the Ekwanok Country Club.





The first "official" Manchester Band (1861), Russel P. Hoyt, director. This photograph was taken on the Village green in front of the old brick Congregational church.



Manchester Depot Drum Corps, circa 1890. (Seated left to right) William Pettibone, Charles Curtis, Ned Pettibone, Heman Dyer, and Myron Pettibone; (standing left to right) Waldo Williams, William Hicks, Clarence Curtis, James Bourne, Watson Curtis, Charles Bourne, and Albert Hicks.



Day of the Deestrick Skule" which featured Walter Hard as "Hezekiah Pendergrass," the teacher. Other programs in those earlier years were held in Adams Hall or the Colburn House Hall at Factory Point.

Much entertainment was furnished by traveling "artists" such as the "Satsuma Japanese Troupe" (1871) with its "own double-poled tent"; "The Four Celebrated Elephants, Anthony and Cleopatra and Victoria and Albert" (1861); and Madigan's "Beautiful School of the Gymnase," which gave "classic and refined illustrations of muscular energy." In 1924 the Board of Trade sponsored outside entertainment in a series called the "Lyceum Course."

The Colonial Theater at the Depot opened in June 1919 in what was formerly the store of J. C. Blackmer. By 1925 movies had become extremely popular. It cost fifteen cents to see Betty Blythe in "Chu Chin Chow—A Tale of an Arabian Robin Hood amid the Splendors of Old Bagdad" plus a good "two reel comedy." The Arcade opened in the Village. It later became the Playhouse and has survived a number of openings and closings. The Modern Theater at the Depot opened July 1935. It later became the Community Theater, which closed in May 1955 after a disastrous fire. A drive-in theater was built in Manchester in 1955 and is open only part of the year.

Manchester's interest in her aging citizens began as early as 1871, when it counted 614 out of the 1,909 population as being over sixty years old. Probably the nicest manifestation of that interest were the "Old Folks' Parties," which were given over a fifteen-year period at the turn of the century. The first was given by J. E. McNaughton of Barnumville at his home on November 8, 1890 with a dinner attended by 110 people, aged seventy or more. The eldest guests were Mrs. Eliza Mears, 94, and Dr. Joseph D. Wickham, 93.

Another reception and dinner was held September 24, 1897 at the Music Hall by Franklin H. Orvis. The party lasted all day with the old folks "visiting," dancing, singing songs, and having their pictures taken. Regret was expressed that Stiles McMullen, 103, was not present. He had promised to stay for the affair, but "having received a purse of money from Mr. Orvis and the guests of the Equinox House and being elated with his good fortune, he felt compelled to go to his home in St. Alban's to exploit his good luck." The last recorded old folks' party was held in 1904.

Organized sports began in Manchester as early as 1884, when a skating club of fifteen young men organized at a rink on the second floor of C. F. Swett's tinshop. Basketball, now the town's first ranking indoor winter sport, had its first big season in 1929 and 1930. Credited with stimulating the organization of fifteen teams were R. P. Robert, Seminary coach; Roger B. Hurley, organizer of a young men's gym class; and F. B. Rich, a grammar school coach.

The first southwestern Vermont amateur basketball tournament was sponsored by the Rotary Club in March 1938 in Manchester. This was held in the Seminary gymnasium, where the first local schoolboy basketball game had been played in 1914. Regularly scheduled games played by Burr and Burton Seminary with high school teams from neighboring communities are now largely attended throughout the winter. Appropriately enough, the first event held in the gymnasium of the new Manchester Elementary School in 1951 was a basketball jamboree sponsored by the town team.

Voting on whether or not to allow certain recreations on the Sabbath first came up in 1939. The town allows basketball and baseball after 2:00 p.m. and concerts, lectures, and movies after 6:00 p.m. Motor racing on Sundays has not been allowed since it was voted down in 1951.

The first discussion of a community swimming pool to fill recreation needs and to provide employment for the town's jobless was in 1939. The first plan was to build a small pool in the West Branch of the Battenkill and in 1930 the Selectmen were authorized to borrow money to accomplish this as a W.P.A. project. The plan was rescinded, however, and the Manchester Rotary Club, casting around for a project of real community worth, took over the idea. Robert C. Brewster was chairman of the committee. Land was purchased of H. J. Dyer at the Center near the Grange Hall and an anonymous donor gave funds for the pool. Construction began in May 1941, the pool being supplied with water from the West Branch. Total cost of the pool and bathhouses was \$15,000. Maintenance and management have been continued through the years by the Rotary Club largely through money made at an annual carnival. The pool was opened and dedicated August 12, 1941 with an address by Senator Walter Hard, music by the Manchester Band, and various swim-

ming and diving contests. Free American Red Cross swimming and life saving instruction is given annually for the children of Manchester and surrounding towns.

Among other recreational pursuits in Manchester have been: dancing, art, and riding schools; adult discussion and improvement groups; antiques and crafts fairs; organized baseball for every age group; and gym classes. One of the most important national motor sports events—the races of the Sports Car Club of America—has been held in Manchester annually since May 1950 on the Skyline Drive to Mount Equinox.

In the past ten years the town has made several giant-sized efforts to maintain a community recreation program for adults and children. The first, which received immediate co-operation from the citizens, was in 1952. Following several preliminary meetings, some with state experts, a headquarters was outfitted on the lower floor of the new elementary school. The program included such features as round and square dancing and an adult chorus. But in October 1953 the recreation center and program were reorganized to accommodate only teen-agers. In 1954 a board of directors of young adult age supervised the center assisted by a board of governors selected from grades six through twelve.

The Selectmen at that time appointed a Board of Public Recreation to develop a long-range program for the town and to work in co-operation with the recreation center. In 1957 the evening recreation center was reopened under paid adult supervision after having been closed several years due to a lack of interested chaperones. When the elementary school rooms became needed for other purposes in 1958, the Board of Public Recreation leased rooms in the I.O.O.F. Hall at Manchester Depot. In 1956 the Board began an eight weeks' morning summer playground program which has included, in addition to regular playground games, instruction in golf and organized baseball.

### § *Hunting and Fishing*

As early as 1900 Manchester was advertised as having fine trout fishing in all of its streams, especially in the Battenkill. In previous years, before fishing season began on the last Saturday in April, the



first morning of fishing season was a traditional holiday for Burr and Burton Seminary students. Now, younger children turn out for the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Fishing Derby. In 1958 the Dufresne Dam project, constructed by the state at Manchester Depot, was opened as an excellent fishing area. The Battenkill and Dufresne Pond are well stocked with brown, rainbow, and brook trout while Equinox Pond, a private preserve open to guests of the Equinox House only, is stocked with rainbow trout. All this availability, together with the Orvis Company making Grade A fishing equipment right in town, makes Manchester a mecca for fishermen.

Approximately 1,500 hunting and/or fishing licenses of all types are sold by the town clerk annually. About one half of these are non-resident.

About 1860 a herd of Virginia red deer was turned loose in Vermont. Though for a while they were totally protected, annihilation followed and by 1875 there were no wild deer in this section of Vermont and none in the state except for Essex County. M. J. Hapgood of Peru was an influence in the movement to reintroduce deer into Vermont.

In Manchester a group of sportsmen interested in game protection and propagation and led by Colonel Mason S. Colburn, raised money for the purpose of placing some deer on the east mountain. Four deer were purchased, but by the time the animals reached the Depot on May 9, 1877, one had died. The two remaining does and a buck were taken to the Pettibone place south of the Depot, where a great number of people came to view them. The next morning the deer in their crates were loaded onto two bobsleds drawn by two pair of horses and the trip to Bourn Pond on top of east mountain began. It was made via the Lye Brook Hollow road and a short distance this side of the pond a snowdrift fully eighteen inches deep was encountered. The party, consisting of Myron Taylor, George Swift, Henry Bundy, Hiram Eggleston, Leonard Pettibone, and James Smith, reached the destination about noon and proceeded to release the animals.

The two younger deer immediately disappeared into the forest but the old doe, which was quite tame, stayed nearby while the party lunched. A few days later, the doe appeared near the Pettibone home in the valley, where the family was able to get close

enough to feed her. Later she returned with two fawns, the first seen by many people in this section.

About this time deer were released in Bennington, Danby, and Rutland, thus establishing the foundation of deer in Vermont which today number thousands. Other states around Vermont owe their supply to the herds introduced here. In those days, perhaps more than now, some people could see no good in such animals and numerous were the stories of gardens destroyed by those first deer.

Until 1896 deer were protected and today's sportsmen are enjoying the benefits of that far-sighted policy. An entry in the diary of Eber Taylor of Manchester Depot, November 8, 1908 says succinctly—"Deerhunters all over the mountains." The same can be said in 1960 during the sixteen-day deer season which begins the second Saturday in November. Many are the Manchester men, as well as visitors to town, who "close up shop" to hunt. Deer, in fact, are so plentiful in the area that a popular evening's diversion is to ride around the outskirts of Manchester and view the animals grazing.

At first only bucks could be killed. In the years 1909, 1915, 1919, and 1920 an open season (the last whole week in October) allowed licensed hunters to kill either buck or doe. Now only buck may be taken. A ten-day hunting season in October allows the use of bow and arrow for taking deer. In the fall of 1939 Manchester was made one of the nine Vermont deer weighing stations by the Fish and Game Service to obtain valuable data on the deer situation in various counties.

Manchester also provides hunting for rabbits, squirrel, beaver, and bear in the proper legal seasons.

### § *The Manchester Fair*

A TRADITIONAL recreation in Manchester, once a vivid and vital part of the community, has been the Manchester Fair. It was preceded in the early nineteenth century by county fairs in the various towns which were sponsored by the Bennington County Agricultural Society.

The first meeting "to see what action should be taken toward a

town fair"<sup>1</sup> was held by interested Manchester men at the Court House September 6, 1878. Ralph Purdy was moderator and Eber Taylor, John Pettibone, and Elias B. Thompson were appointed to solicit funds.

During its earliest years, the fair was known as the "Farmers' and Mechanics' Fair" but at a later meeting held in Adams Hall, Factory Point, D. K. Simonds changed the name to the Battenkill Valley Industrial Society. The fair was the "annual meeting" of the group. It was soon acknowledged by the entire area to be "the most successful of any [fairs] held in southern Vermont."<sup>2</sup>

Egbert B. Smith was elected the first president in 1879, an office he held until his retirement in 1907. W. H. Beebe was vice-president; D. K. Simonds, secretary; and George Burton, treasurer. The Society was also run by a board of directors from Rupert, Dorset, Peru, Landgrove, Winhall, Sunderland, Sandgate, and Manchester. Members paid or pledged \$1 before each annual fair. Bennington residents were not admitted as members until 1896.

There were also superintendents in charge of the various departments and three judges appointed for each category on the premium lists:

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Horses</i>            | <i>Butter and Cheese</i>  |
| Best stallions           | <i>Vegetables</i>         |
| Best matched work horses | Potatoes                  |
| Gentlemen's drivers      | Garden vegetables         |
| Breeding mares           |                           |
| Colts                    | <i>Mechanics' Hall</i>    |
|                          | Harnesses                 |
|                          | Boots and shoes           |
|                          | Buggies, etc.             |
| <i>Cattle</i>            | <i>Seeds and Grain</i>    |
| Thoroughbreds            | <i>Fruits</i>             |
| Natives and grades       | <i>Bread and Cake</i>     |
| Working oxen             | <i>Maple Sugar, Honey</i> |
| Steers                   |                           |

1. Eber Taylor, Manchester Depot, personal diary.

2. Lewis C. Aldrich, editor, *History of Bennington County* (Syracuse, 1889), p. 380.



*Sheep*  
Merinos  
Coarse wool sheep

*Swine*  
*Poultry*

*Floral Hall*  
Flowers, plants  
Domestic manufactures  
Embroidery, fancy work  
Oil paintings, decorations

In 1880 a single admission cost twenty-five cents and a membership ticket for man and wife, \$1. Children under fifteen and carriages were admitted free. In 1896 these prices were increased to \$1 for a single admission and team and ten cents for children under twelve.

The original Battenkill Valley Industrial Society was dissolved in February 1887 and a temporary organization formed, incorporating later in the year with a capital stock of \$5,000 in shares of \$10 each. After the incorporation, the Society, which had formerly leased the Fair Grounds, purchased the thirty acres which lay just north of Manchester Center for \$2,500.

An entrance from each highway—the road to Dorset and the road to Rutland—led into the Grounds. The first turned abruptly north off U.S. Rte. 7 alongside the barns and horsesheds of Thayer's Hotel (The Old Tavern) following an easy curve down over the slope of the Battenkill, which was crossed by a low wooden bridge. This entrance had a large enough right-of-way to permit the stands of hawkers and venders who sold everything from buggy whips and balloons to popcorn and bananas. Just over the bridge were the shacks housing the caged chickens, geese, and ducks.

The other entrance entered the Fair Grounds from the west alongside the house recently belonging to Mrs. Fred Stone. It was then the property of the Battenkill Valley Industrial Society and was occupied by Almon Smith. Mrs. Smith rented rooms and provided dinners for fairgoers. One entered the Fair Grounds through the barn, leaving carriages on the outside and horses within. The present entrance is about a block north of this old one.

During the summer of 1888 the Society built a new grandstand for \$900; new cattle pens; a new well-arranged Floral Hall with four entrances; and a "tight fence to keep out a large number who were mean enough to steal in." Estimated attendance at the fair that

year, "and the attendance that year was not unusually great," was given as 10,000 over the three-day period. Many of the visitors came from surrounding Vermont counties and New York state.

The receipts from all sources were about \$3000 while the total expenses were less than \$2000 leaving . . . more than a thousand dollars with which to improve their grounds and buildings and pay dividends.<sup>3</sup>

The fair was generally held during the first two weeks in September, though sometimes late in August. Burr and Burton Seminary always closed for one day so that students could attend. It was the usual procedure to send out two or more teams to decorate the countryside with small handbills advertising the fair. These teams, composed of two men (one to hold the horses and one to do the tacking) with a buggy or buckboard, worked in "loops," each in a certain district. Posters and handbills were attached to telegraph poles, horsesheds, and store fronts over a wide area from Cambridge, New York, to Wells, Vermont.

Inside the Fair Grounds, the oval within the confines of the race track was usually well sprinkled with vehicles of all kinds. It was especially congested just across from the grandstand, which was a good vantage point from which to view the finish of races or the special entertainment offered between heats. Families came for the day with their teams and single rigs and lunched on the grass around their wagons. If they lived near Manchester, they returned home at nightfall and came back the next day. The out-of-town people made the most of this one annual opportunity to visit old friends and relatives. They stayed overnight in their wagons or in town.

There was nothing to compare with the thrills of attending that early fair. A horse-drawn bus called "HAPPY HOURS" traveled at regular intervals from "The Street" and "The Depot" carrying local people to the Fair Grounds. Emerson Estabrook, owner of the Opera House, had the contract for the 1887 fair to serve lunch and dinner in the Fair Grounds dining hall and in his own dining room. He sold over 100 gallons of oysters during the three days.

The area for concessions at the Fair Grounds was at the south end of the race track, which had been banked rather high so the

3. Aldrich, *Bennington County*, p. 380.

racers could hug the pole. Near here were the merry-go-round, the Ferris wheel, penny arcade, shooting galleries, side shows, picture cameras, and more popcorn and candy stands. One of the tent attractions in 1887 was the patent incubator of E. C. Orvis, who had his eggs so timed that chicks hatched all three days of the fair.

The biggest and most exciting harness racing was held the last day of the fair with the "Free-for-All" carrying the largest purse. It was open to any horse, trotter or pacer, as long as the entry fee had been paid on time. Dr. John F. Page, veterinarian who was associated with the B.V.I.S. from its inception until his death in 1907, owned a number of speedy pacers and trotters.

Bicycle, foot, and peg races were usually featured on the fair program. Each fair, too, had its special attraction. One year it was the U. S. Cavalry from Fort Ethan Allen; another year it was W. R. Dean's famous bull advertised as the "MAMMOTH BULLOCK—LARGEST HORNED ANIMAL IN THE WORLD," which weighed at the age of seven and a half between 5,500 and 6,500 pounds. It measured twelve feet "from the roots of its horns to the roots of its tail"; six feet, ten inches in perpendicular height; and eleven feet, eight inches in girth.

The Battenkill Valley Industrial Society published a statement of its receipts and expenditures before annual business meetings, which were held on the second day of January each year at the Court House. Members in 1900 reported that new sheep sheds had been erected and many cattle pens replaced. "The only criticism heard," they wrote, "was in regard to the amount of drunkenness . . . during the last fair." This situation was apparently remedied, as the following report said:

A pleasing feature of the fair was the almost total absence of drunkenness and rowdyism which disgraced the fair last year. As special attractions the grounds were decorated with flags, the West Pawlet band furnished good music . . . and an automobile, new to most of those present, was on the track much of the time. . . .

Alas! The Automobile! It heralded the disintegration of the Manchester Fair. Though as many as 5,000 spectators continued to patronize the fair during the first quarter of the century, each year brought more interest in engines and less interest in horses. Prizes



of money continued to be awarded at Floral Hall; special exhibits were still contributed by Equinox House chefs—a six and a half foot loaf of bread, a mammoth mince pie, or a bouquet of carved vegetables. Horse racing continued—one of the bills paid by the Society in 1923 was for 7,296 pounds of hay, and the Percheron stallion was a feature that year. In 1926, Harold Giddings, later to manage the fair, supervised the races. But there were too many innovations.

In 1912 a rest tent had been installed with a trained nurse by the Bennington County Improvement Association; in 1921 exhibits from the State Library and Tuberculosis Associations and Middlebury College were added; in 1920 and 1922 Captain Stickney of Bellows Falls gave passenger rides in his plane using the oval for a landing field; in 1928 a Better Baby contest awarded gold pieces and silver porringers. By 1930 people passed up the Floral Hall for the pleasures of viewing tight rope walking, tumbling, trick horse, and acrobatic acts. A parade of decorated cars filing past the tall wooden judges' stand drew more attention than the exhibits of merino sheep.

As interests changed, the fair floundered. The Society blamed it on the increasing debt incurred by the annual production and the cost of new equipment and upkeep. The old folks blamed it on a lack of interest and co-operation by the younger adults. Luckily, the B.V.I.S. had a friend in Benjamin A. Bulkley, a white-bearded horse fancier from Southport, Connecticut, who had spent his summers at the Equinox House since 1863.

Bulkley kept the fair from joining the ever-increasing ranks of small country fairs that had been forced to close. He purchased it "for the purpose of restoring it to life." Some said he bought it solely as a background for his favorite horse, an elegant looking animal named "Northern Direct." Whatever the reason, the Manchester Fair had a brief new lease on life. Though many of the features were missing, it continued to draw large crowds. In 1932 there were fireworks every night but no vegetables in the Floral Hall. The *Manchester Journal* called it "signs of the times."

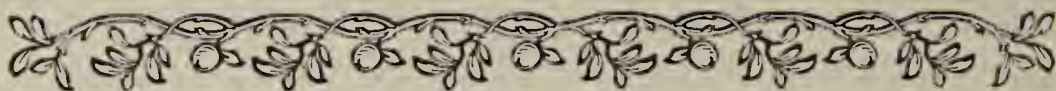
Bulkley died in May 1934, leaving \$500 for a horse monument in Connecticut. The Manchester Fair went into a tailspin. It was over ten years before an effort to revive the fair was made, this time by

veterinarian John P. ("Doc") Lake. Early in 1949 another movement was started by a group of Manchester citizens to bring the fair back to its old nonprofit eminence in the community. But little was accomplished. In the meantime, Bartlett Arkell had purchased the property and presented it to the Rod and Gun Club. The grounds were then leased to the Fucci Brothers of Rutland for a five-year period.

The hootchie-kootchie atmosphere continues to prevail at the carnival-like Manchester Fair. Horse pulling, alone, seems to be the only remnant of "the good old days."

We wandered through the forest glade,  
Till bursting from the verdant shade  
Where Bromley meadow's flowers blow  
We saw three counties spread below.  
Clouds filled the sky in ordered flocks  
From Stratton round to Equinox  
And cast their shadows on the scene,  
Purple, amid the seas of green.  
Gladly we gazed, and sadly turned away  
And took the Long Trail back to humdrum day.

—Anonymous inscription in the Bromley Lodge  
Register, Green Mountain Club, 1938



## CHAPTER XXII

# Manchester-In-The-Mountains

**M**ANCHESTER became a celebrated summer resort almost before she knew it. It was a logical development for a town so richly endowed by nature and so suitably located at the junction of several important stage roads. But what people least expected was the "cosmopolitan and exclusive" stronghold established in Manchester by the outside "world of affairs, arts, letters, and social registers" which was to give the town "an air of rich and cultured living."<sup>1</sup>

Though skiing may have changed Manchester's economy, townspeople are aware that it is the summer population who are, and have been since they first began arriving in 1850, the lifeblood of the community. Deeper rooted, richer, and steadier, Manchester's summer business has become completely identified with the town. In fact, some of the families have been coming to Manchester for so long that it takes an old-timer to tell who is a native. The older residents are the ones, too, who know it is the Village with its long, broad, tree-lined street, elegant marble walks, and handsome homes that attracts the tourists and the "summer people."

A foresighted doctor, William Gould, planted what were once Manchester's famous elms about 1780, while the marble sidewalks, as near as can be ascertained, were first laid about 1850. The first sidewalk is said to have been in front of the home of Levi C. Orvis, which now forms part of the Equinox House. Orvis died in 1849,

1. *Vermont, The American Guide Series* (Boston, 1937), p. 296.



which might place the date of the first sidewalk even earlier. The fine slabs of Dorset marble sawed off at Factory Point mills are mentioned as lying on both sides of the Street in one of the earliest issues of the *Manchester Journal* in 1861. By 1890 the walks totaled four miles.

Andrus L. Bowen, Manchester journalist, described the Village when it had just blossomed:

A hamlet set upon a hill bounded on the north by a swamp, on the east by sand beds, on the south by down hill and cool winds, and on the west by Mt. Equinox that has been its maker. Orvis had just started his summer resort . . . the Equinox Pond had just been built, and the road down to the railroad called "Union Street" was being built. . . . Many thought Orvis' mission of making Manchester a summer resort was only a vision and predicted another failure, but it was not for he succeeded beyond all expectation. . . . He also brought the water from Mt. Equinox that used to be thought unfit to drink and sold it.

The construction of the Troy and Boston and the Western Vermont Railroads in 1852 brought Troy only two hours distant from Manchester. By 1862 the *Manchester Journal* was able to say:

Our quiet little village can almost vie with a Saratoga or a Newport. From present appearances this season will be as good as 1860 which was the best since our city friends began to come among us. Every house in the village was as full as a "Third Avenue car," almost entirely New Yorkers. We heard a lady who had "been the rounds" of all the fashionable watering places remark that no other place had she enjoyed . . . so well as here.

Indeed, no pains or expense were spared by Manchester's "elegant and commodious" hotels "to provide such appurtenances as artificial ponds, fountains, walks, and carriage roads." Franklin H. Orvis constructed Equinox Pond sometime before 1880. Fed by three mountain streams, covering some ten acres, and measuring a mile around, Equinox Pond abounds now, as then, with trout. Sometime between 1860 and 1870 Orvis built a wagon road from Bear-town Gap to Lookout Rock on Mount Equinox directly above Manchester. This was the heyday of carriage roads for the amusement of summer visitors. The Equinox House published a special driving map showing the most popular drives around Manchester. One

favorite was to Peru from East Dorset over the Mad Tom road and another was to Sandgate from the West Road via Beartown Notch. Both roads are now impassable.

One of the first and best known of Manchester's summer people was Dr. W. A. Brown, a Brooklyn, New York, dentist and the father of Mrs. John Jacob Gunther, herself a leader in the town's summer population. Dr. Brown's entry into Manchester each year was heralded by the steady shriek of the locomotive whistle which he paid the railroad firemen to tie open all the way from Sunderland to Manchester.<sup>2</sup> Another of his attention-getters was a "prestodigattor," a fancy contraption of revolving tin wheels and tops, which he set up in the brook south of Taconic Avenue. In August 1861 the "Equinox Balloon" of his construction ascended from Manchester amid the frenzied cheers of the public. The amazing air bubble, twenty-five feet long and fifty-two feet in diameter and made of varicolored tissue paper, took a southeasterly course and rose to a height of 5,000 feet.

In 1858 Dr. Brown began a movement to remove all front yard fences in the Village. Twenty-five years later, he received permission to remove the last, a fence belonging to the Rev. Dr. J. D. Wickham. Brown invited the whole town to witness the removal.<sup>3</sup>

In 1886 a group of influential citizens, aware that the summer boarding population of some 400 sought quiet and rest, asked the government to change the name of Factory Point post office (which seemed to denote a noisy manufacturing community) to Manchester Center. On February 23, 1901 the Manchester Development Association was organized to promote the town as a summer resort and to advertise its advantages as both a permanent and summer home. This group adopted "Manchester-In-The-Mountains" as the town trademark and sent out 15,000 brochures annually. The membership, composed of both summer and year-round residents, paid dues, which with voluntary contributions supported the association.

Among the first officers and directors were George Smith, W. B. Edgerton, George L. Towsley, William F. Orvis, George Daniels (General Passenger Agent, New York Central Railroad), H. W.

2. Margaret and Walter Hard, *This Is Vermont* (Brattleboro, 1936), p. 52.

3. *Manchester Journal*, November 8, 1883.

Brown, Clark Burnham, C. M. Clark, G. A. Dolby, A. M. Gilbert, H. K. Gilbert, Edward S. Isham, Robert T. Lincoln, J. N. Lichtenauer, D. McBirney, R. F. McQueen, C. A. Nimmo, Loveland Munson, Paul Orvis, J. L. Taylor, George H. Thacher, Paul Waterman, and Mark S. Willing. By 1912 each section of Manchester had its own improvement association. There was also a Bennington County group.

And these improvement groups helped! By late September in those years (the possibilities of the fall foliage season had not yet been recognized) Manchester was ready for a rest.

The fall exodus of guests from this station is about over. There were nearly 100 trunks sent out on one train going south recently. Who said the summer boarder business was not a business in itself?<sup>4</sup>

In 1926 \$615 was raised by public subscription to be added to a statewide fund of \$25,000 for general state publicity. Officials of the Board of Trade, the organization succeeding the Manchester Development Association, felt that there were few places in Vermont that could benefit more than Manchester. In 1927 some \$21,540 had been paid in rentals by summer families. Wages paid to local help for seasonal or year-round employment by and for summer people were estimated at \$750,000 annually. Summer visitors were spending \$500,000 each year in Manchester hotels and boarding houses. In 1928 an estimate was made that approximately \$788,000 had been spent within ten years on Village buildings and repairs, all attributed to summer guests.

That Manchester has this business is not so much a matter of luck or location as it is the result of most excellent hotel facilities, fine golf links, and good advertising.<sup>5</sup>

Even during the depression, Manchester had good tourist seasons. A sharp upturn in October tourists came in 1950 when the area's brilliant mountain foliage began to be more heavily publicized.

In August 1938 some forty businessmen and women met at the Court House to discuss the possibilities of constructing a motor road to the top of Mount Equinox as another feature by which to

4. *Manchester Journal*, September 12, 1905.

5. *Manchester Journal*, May 3, 1928.



entice the tourist trade. But in 1939 Dr. J. G. Davidson purchased a large tract of land on Mount Equinox and two years later built the first link of a toll road to the top of the mountain. The acquisition of all necessary land was completed by 1946 and the following year found the road open to the public. It was widened and paved in 1953. From its entrance in Sunderland, the road is five and four-tenths miles to the summit, where the Sky Line Inn, built in 1949, is located.

Manchester has had many outstanding summer citizens who have done much for their adopted community. Representative of these was Bartlett Arkell (1862–1946), founder of the Beech-Nut Packing Company, Canajoharie, New York. In 1940 Arkell was president of the Ekwanok Country Club. Through his efforts, the old clubhouse had been remodeled and following the fire which destroyed it, the new one built. He bought the Manchester Fair Grounds property and presented it to the Rod and Gun Club in the hope it would be used as a community recreation center. Because of his generosity, the club was able to install trout pools at the Bennington Hatchery. Arkell was also a benefactor of Burr and Burton Seminary, having provided funds for the purchase of Cross Cottage on Franklin Avenue for use as a boys' dormitory.

In 1954 the Chamber of Commerce branched out with the erection and operation of a tourist information booth in co-operation with the state; the installation of two "WELCOME" signs at the north and south approaches to the town; supervision of Christmas lighting and decoration; and an industrial exhibit of locally manufactured products at the Equinox House during the convention season. In 1955 the Chamber added several more projects: annual town clean-up week; annual pre-town meeting; and the uniform closing of stores on Good Friday. In 1957 the Chamber began using the Information Booth as headquarters and it published summer and winter guides to the town. During that year 8,884 people in 3,617 cars stopped to ask questions about Manchester and Vermont.

### § *The Equinox House*

THE pride of Manchester—the world-famous Equinox House—like Topsy, "just grewed." The south end of the present hotel was

the approximate site of the first hotel in Manchester built about 1770 by Colonel William Marsh, who at one time owned all the land west of the Street. A few weeks before turning Tory, he sold part of that land, all the rest being confiscated later by the state. Martin Powel kept the hotel for Marsh and it was here that the Council of Safety met in 1777 and the Legislature in 1788.

It was a plain wooden building of less than two full stories with its side to the road. The ground floor consisted of two similarly sized rooms in the front, a kitchen in the rear extending from the south end of the building, and a pantry north of the kitchen. The main entrance was nearly in the center of the building and opened into the south front room. From here a door went into the kitchen and in the south end of the kitchen was the stairway. On the upper floor were two small rooms in the rear, a large front chamber in the south end of the building, and a smaller one in the north end. "These were the scanty accommodations of an inn which often numbered among its guests the leading men of Vermont and in which were enacted some of the most interesting scenes of her early history."<sup>6</sup>

Thaddeus Munson took over the Marsh Tavern upon the confiscation of Tory land, but by 1812 the inn lay unused and ready to be demolished. Munson had built another one close by, the frame of which was to be raised publicly March 4, 1801. Because it was a holiday, the first inauguration day of Thomas Jefferson, the huge crowd had the job nearly done by dark. Old New England rum flowed freely and womenfolk spent the day serving hot drinks, doughnuts, and cake. "Munson's Tavern" with its colonial front and elegant round pillars was not only the showplace of Manchester, but the largest and finest inn for its time in Vermont. In 1812, however, it was kept open only when the court was in session.<sup>7</sup>

J. P. Roberts ran the hotel for a while and in 1816 Thaddeus Munson's administrators sold it to Captain Peter Black for \$2,125. He enlarged the house and built sheds and barns where the Marsh Tavern had stood. In 1840 Martin Vanderlip bought the inn from James Pierce. He tore down the sheds and enlarged the house to more than twice its original size. The Vanderlip family kept the

6. Loveland Munson, *The Early History of Manchester* (Manchester, 1876), p. 26.

7. Munson, *Manchester*, p. 61.

hotel for about thirty years. A large addition made in 1854 put the Vanderlips greatly in debt and finally, in order to satisfy the heavy mortgages, the hotel was sold to A. J. Gray, who re-named it the "Taconic."

During this time, north of the Taconic, were two brick stores, the first having been built by Walter J. Shephard in 1834 and the second, an older one belonging to Levi C. Orvis. Orvis removed the old store about 1841 and went into partnership with Shephard. That store was approximately in the location of the present office of the Equinox House. In 1832 Orvis had built a beautiful and substantial dwelling house with double parlors directly north of the old store. Its location was that of the present north parlor of the Equinox House.

Upon the death of Levi Orvis, his son, Franklin, closed the store, purchased the property, and by enlarging, remodeling, connecting, and improving both the house and store, consolidated the whole into one long building. He called it the "Equinox House" and the official opening as a hotel was in June 1853. There were 125 rooms including sixty in the annex (Equinox Junior) across the street. In 1880 he also bought the adjoining Vanderlip or Taconic Hotel with seventy-five more rooms and connected it with the Equinox House by a second story bridge over what was then the upper part of Union Street.

Often identified with the Equinox House was the whipping post that stood nearly in front of the north end of the hotel. Across the street was the pillory. These were used in the days when the sheriff was as apt to cut off earlobes or brand foreheads as to mete out any other kind of punishment.

The Equinox House in the nineteenth century catered to a clientele which came chiefly from New York City. Many guests came by rail with parlor and sleeping car accommodations. Some notable citizens spent the summer here, bringing not only their families, but also their stables of fine horses along with coachmen, footmen, grooms, stablemen, and harnessmen. It was one of the events of the day to watch these elaborate turnouts start for an afternoon drive. At dusk, the servants, many of whom were Negroes, rested in front of their little cottages across from the stables. Guests and townsfolk purposely rode by to hear the singing to the strumming of banjos.



The listing of all new arrivals at the hotel was printed weekly in the *Manchester Journal*, and the newspaper extolled the hostelry at every opportunity:

The number of charming children seen daily in front of the "Equinox" tells plainly enough that parents think it is a real Family Hotel; and for grown-up visitors, a series of amusements have nightly been extemporized in the large Parlor. Plays, Dances, Charades, Concerts, Tableaux, Shadow-Pictures, Fancy Dress Balls, all have in their turn cheered the evening hours. Then there have been the excursions to the summit of Mount Equinox, to the Cave in Skinner's Hollow, to Deer Knoll, to the Marble Quarries, to Well's Pond and to Downer's Glen. The Angler has had the finest sport in Bourn and Lye Brooks, in the Battenkill, and in the Equinox Trout Ponds; and the Artist and the Author have found congenial subjects for pen and pencil. In short, Manchester has established itself as a favorite summer resort; and if it is so successful now, what will it be when times prove better?

While the main hotel had the public rooms, the annex held the Music Hall, which was built by Charles N. Bennett in 1868. Dancing and most entertainments, both for the town and hotel, were held there. The last affair held in the Music Hall (or Casino) was an Ondawa Club dance in November 1912. In the following spring, the hotel began renovations to turn the building into guest rooms.

Croquet and lawn tennis were played on the green in front of the hotel. Euchre was the favorite card game and a table or two of prominent men, as well as a large gallery, could be found playing after each meal. These men took an unusual interest in the game, playing by the strictest rules and never for money.

Dining room service at the Equinox House was performed by trained men waiters from the best New York hotels. It was the only hotel in New England which then, and fifty years later, still employed white waiters. After F. H. Orvis doubled his prices in 1856 because he wasn't succeeding, the charge for dinner was fifty cents and board was from six to nine dollars weekly. Children and servants were half-price. A pair of horses and driver were boarded for \$10 weekly until 1918, when the price went up to \$21.

On August 23, 1865 the Equinox House menu carried twelve separate dishes and vegetables and twenty desserts and pastries.

Dinner on Sunday was served "at 2½" and "Tea at 5½." When golf came into popularity, the dinner hour was changed from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00–9:00 p.m. as golfers preferred not to play after a heavy meal.

The Equinox House has been host to many distinguished guests, but it is perhaps proudest of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, who arrived, with her son Robert, on the ten o'clock train on the morning of August 25, 1863 for a two-week stay. Mary Lincoln again came for a two- or three-week visit in August 1864. Robert accompanied her, but left the following day "taking the cars at Troy for the West."<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Lincoln occupied rooms in the north wing of the hotel and spent much of her time driving around Manchester. (Coachmen could then be hired for \$10 weekly.) With no idea of the impending tragedy of her husband's assassination, she had the promise of the President to spend his vacation with her in Manchester in 1865.

Probably the first convention to meet at the Equinox House was that of the Vermont Editors and Publishers Association, June 9, 1871. The hotel was opened especially early that season for the occasion by F. H. Orvis. Now, nearly 100 years later, such openings are the rule rather than the exception, for the convention season presents a full calendar which runs far into the summer as well as late in the fall.

In April 1887 the Equinox House advertised several new bathrooms "which are all supplied with splendid mountain water and are a great luxury to the guests." This was the result of new piping from a spring far up on Mount Equinox. Instead of the hour thought necessary for the water to make its initial run, the priceless commodity made its trip down the mountain in fifteen minutes. This was cause for great rejoicing. Now marble sidewalks could be washed, lawns watered, and the job of the street sprinkler, who kept dust down in front of the hotel, considerably eased. Previously he had drawn his water from the brook at Dellwood Cemetery.

Prior to the death of F. H. Orvis in 1900, his sons, Edward (Ned) and William aided him in the management of the hotel. After 1900 Ned carried on alone. Though the Equinox Company was incorporated about 1902, George Orvis purchased the hotel from his

8. *Manchester Journal*, August 30, 1864, p. 2.

brothers in 1908 and appointed Andrew E. Martin, who had already been with the hotel thirty years, as manager and vice-president.

George Orvis added more baths, steam heat, a new kitchen, and dining room and remodeled the ballroom and parlors. There were now 200 rooms, 120 with connecting baths. Vegetables served in the hotel were advertised as being "from our own farm." Increased automobile travel called for more garage facilities and quarters for chauffeurs. Work, therefore, began in November 1912 on Union Street for the Carsden Inn with 100 rooms and a fireproof garage, the largest in the state.

In September 1912 ex-President Theodore Roosevelt made a twenty-minute speech in front of the hotel on his way by auto to Rutland. The *Manchester Journal* was cool:

The spectators were not much impressed by the appearance or the voice of the speaker, most of whom had never seen him before. Mr. Roosevelt was in poor voice, and did not show up as big, physically, as a great many had thought he would.<sup>9</sup>

Another spectator regarded the visit more enthusiastically:

Such crowds of people assembled as never I think have been seen in Manchester before. I did hear one woman say, "I only went to see his teeth!" . . . He spoke of course of Messrs. Penrose and Archbold who were then testifying to contributing to his campaign funds before the Senate Investigating Committee. He spoke of the fallacious remark "*We can't trust the mob*," adding "Why, *you're* the rabble! *You're* the mob!" in a hearty voice to the assembled luxurious guests of the Equinox House—a delightful scene! Those who were near him saw, they declared, frightful grimaces. [I] missed seeing these. [I] noted, however, his easy cultivated pronunciation, and frank, wholesome, friendly . . . personality.<sup>10</sup>

William Howard Taft, the first president to be entertained here while in office, visited Manchester October 9 and 10, 1912. After an evening speech to the well-packed Music Hall, he shook hands with over 700 people and amid long and hearty cheering left to spend the night with Robert Todd Lincoln at "Hildene." Those who

9. *Manchester Journal*, September 5, 1912.

10. Sarah N. Cleghorn, entry September 1912, vol. VII (1910–1912). Clippings and notes kept for the Manchester Historical Society, p. 109.



watched his exit were amused to see his close fit through the door of the Lincoln limousine.

Following the sudden accidental death of George Orvis in 1917, his widow, Anna Louise Simonds Orvis, continued to run the hotel. In June 1921 she sold the controlling interest in all Equinox properties, excepting the Equinox Spring Company, to Mrs. V. H. P. Brown of New York. Andrew Martin stayed to manage the hotel until May of the following year, when he severed his connection after forty-six years with the business. Apparently Mrs. Orvis regretted the action. In November 1922 came the announcement that she and Martin were back in control.

In late 1927 the famed bottling plant was turned into a waiters' dormitory and Mrs. Orvis, as leading stockholder and president of the Equinox Company, was looking for new enterprises to increase the volume of patronage to the Equinox House. Among these were an adequate airport in Manchester, the maintenance of an eighteen-hole golf course, and the construction of a new skeet field north of Equinox Pond. Unfortunately these were heavy financial loads coming at the time of a national depression.

The last recorded meeting of stockholders was April 16, 1938 and of directors, August 15, 1938. A petition was filed for bankruptcy and the company was legally dissolved.

In order to protect the welfare of the Village, a group of citizens took over the declining hotel and leased it to Arthur E. Langdon of Melrose, Massachusetts, and A. Rea Ball of Pine Orchard, Connecticut. Langdon withdrew from active participation in 1939 and Ball took over the presidency of Ball and Langdon, Inc., making Franklin Hodgkins manager of the hotel.

On June 1, 1953 Ball leased the Equinox property for ten years to John J. Dewey of St. Petersburg, Florida, who, under the Dewey Hotel Corporation, now operates the hotel. Dewey, who has an option to buy, has done as much as his predecessors in renovating, improving, and adding to the Equinox House. Among his major contributions have been a swimming pool and a number of guest villas.

### § *Other "First-Class Establishments"*

MANCHESTER has always been a town of inns and taverns. The Eliakim Weller tavern was the present Captain H. McConkey house on the east side of the Village Street near Dellwood Cemetery. The early Legislature met here on October 14, 1779, the first of three times in Manchester. Sometimes known as "Anna Weller's," the tavern was later the residence of Lieutenant-Governor Leonard Sargeant, Deacon Isaac Burton, and the Rev. Dr. George Smythe.

Also on the east side of the Street on the present site of the Equinox Junior was a tavern first operated by Truman Purdy, father of Mrs. Levi C. Orvis, Sr. It was later the property of Abram Straight and known as "Straight's Tavern." In 1907 an excellent well was discovered in front of the Equinox Junior which probably belonged to this very old inn. In this building were a courtroom and jail used prior to construction of the Court House. The Allis Tavern, where the early North Star Masonic Lodge met, is also said to have been in this locality. In 1866 F. H. Orvis acquired the property, rebuilt it, added the Seth Lyons house, and renamed the whole building the "Equinox Junior" as an annex to his Equinox House.

The Manchester Hotel replaced an old barn on the corner of Union Street and U.S. Rte. 7 opposite the Court House. Charles F. Orvis laid the foundation about 1861. The hotel opened in April 1863. It included a drugstore and the Manchester Water-Cure rooms of Dr. L. H. Sprague and later became another section of the Equinox Junior.

The Leland Tavern located on the Street below the present Equinox House was kept by Alexander and Simeon Leland, who also ran a stage line to Chester. It was in existence in 1830. Simeon kept a tavern on the other side of the mountain while his brother was host at the Manchester inn. A tavern on the West Road on what is now Overton property was kept by Captain Frederick Smith sometime prior to 1867.

The 1811 House property in the Village changed hands six times before it became the land of Jeremiah French, the Tory whose estate was eventually confiscated. Jared Munson bought the property

from the state September 13, 1778.<sup>11</sup> It is said that Governor Chittenden and his council stayed at this location while the Legislature of 1788 met next door in the meeting house. The dwelling was raised to two stories and otherwise enlarged and remodeled in 1811. The house stayed in the Munson family for many years until John Moffat, naming it the "Munson House," turned it into a year-round hotel. Among other owners have been John Boynton, O. Cushman, Charles Isham, and Henry B. Robinson. Isham, son-in-law of Robert T. Lincoln, made it into his private home in 1905. Robinson opened the inn in 1939 as the "1811 House" and still operates it.

The Pierpont Tavern (the Wickham residence now belonging to Elizabeth Page Harris) was operated by Robert Pierpont about 1795 and later, briefly, by Captain Peter Black.

The Orvis Inn had been built by 1833. It had five owners before Dr. Ezra Francisco bought it in 1851. Much of the large property was split up later and sold to various owners, the house being purchased by J. M. Shattuck. Charles F. Orvis bought it from William B. Thomas in 1883. Orvis, his son Robert, and his daughter Mary Marbury, operated it as a summer boarding house. It was later operated, though still only in the summer, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Orvis. In 1937 Mrs. George Orvis leased the inn to run during the winter. It was one of the first in town to remain open through the season for the accommodation of skiers. The Robert Orvis's continued summer operation until 1939 when their daughter, Rhoda, assumed most of the responsibility. John Ortlieb, a New York skier who first came to this area about 1935, was so impressed with the potential ski conditions that in 1940 he leased the Orvis Inn, buying it in 1942. The inn was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Robinson in May 1957, who sold it to William D. Boardman in 1960.

Fiske's Summit House, located on the west side of U.S. Rte. 7 in the south part of the Village, was opened in 1884 by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Fiske. A "plain, thoroughly comfortable farmhouse" advertising "an abundant table," the Summit House accommodated fifty guests. Their daughter, Alice, took over the operation of the

11. *Land Records*, vol. 1, p. 318.



inn about 1900, renaming it "Macnaughtan's" and receiving a good patronage. It became the property of Mr. and Mrs. James McCooey in 1941, but the inn was forced to close following a serious fire.

The Worthy Inn, formerly the Orchard Park Hotel, was opened for the first time in 1907 by Charles H. Willard and Company. It was purchased in 1919 by the owner of the Hotel Worthy, Springfield, Massachusetts, James T. Brown, who carried on the business under the name of the Manchester Hotel Company. In time he made extensive alterations and built up a thriving summer business. In April 1945 the hotel was purchased by Snow Valley, Inc., to accommodate the increasing number of skiers coming to Manchester. The inn, with lodgings for 150 guests, now caters to a brisk winter trade. A swimming pool has been added to its facilities.

The Wilburton Inn, former residence of James Wilbur, was purchased in October 1943 by John Ortlieb, who took possession following the departure of the Windsor Mountain School, which had occupied the property for several years. The Wilburton Inn, Inc., of which Ortlieb is president, operates year-round.

The first tavern at Factory Point was kept by Martin Mead on the site of the present Colburn House. Prior to becoming a hotel in 1872, the Colburn House was on the farm of Martin Slocum, Josiah H. Bartlett, and E. A. Jameson. It was rebuilt for Cyrus Roberts by carpenters Orson Brewster, Henry Bundy, and Richard Cook. The third floor was made into a dance hall. The first guest to register was Charles Burton in April 1872. During a dance January 31, 1877, a fire started in the woodshed wing and despite a twenty-below temperature, it was quickly extinguished by the Manchester Street engine and the Factory Point "Great Falls."

The Colburn House, now noted for its excellent cuisine, once advertised itself as having "as pure spring water, by actual analysis, as it is possible to get." Owners and managers through the years have been John Vanderlip, John Moffat, John Angel, Henry Davis, Lorenzo Shaffner, Mrs. Shaffner, Berniece Weed, Perry Bond, David Rutledge, H. W. Mattison, William Caulstone, and Frank Bond. Bond ran the inn from 1905 until his death in 1947. On June 4, 1951 his son, Charles, sold it to Alex and Margaret Knothe, who are still the proprietors.

The Old Tavern at Manchester Center, the property of Walter

Clemons since 1934, has been known as the "Stagecoach Inn," "Thayer's Hotel," and the "Fairview" and is said to have been built in 1790. Painted yellow with high white columns, it has been changed very little. One of its unique features is the third floor ball-room with a spring floor, small stage, and tiny dressing rooms under the eaves. Aaron Sheldon of Dorset, said to have been one of the best carpenters in the county, built this hotel.

The Brick Tavern at Barnumville, now the home of Reid Lefevre, Senator from Bennington County, was a stagecoach inn built about 1825. A successful hostelry, it was one of the best in the county because of its location below the toll gate at the foot of the Peru Turnpike. Here the teamsters stopped to rest their teams before going over the mountain, stabling their horses in a barn across the road. The tavern, originally of wood, has also been owned by men named Mattison, Bailey, Upton, Hicks, Cook, and Benedict.

The Brooks Tavern at Manchester Center was built by David Brooks. It opened about 1814 and stood on the corner between Harry Adams' home and what is now the Battenkill Locker (Adams Hall). The Briggs House at Manchester Center, also a tavern, was built by John Roberts. The property has since been owned by Eben Curtiss, Russell Dean, Dr. Claude Campbell, and James B. Campbell.

Building operations for the Battenkill Inn at Manchester Depot began in 1903. It was opened in 1905, a convenient stopping place for visitors getting off the trains. Robert Batchelder operated it until 1909. At one time the property of Burr and Burton Seminary, it was sold December 1944 to Peter Kregas and James L. Peters, who opened it as "Mt. Equinox Lodge." In 1952, under new ownership, it was named "Town Tavern." In 1960, it again bears its original name.

Estabrook's Opera House at the Center was originally a tavern built between 1815 and 1820 by James Borland with money borrowed from William Ames. Borland died in 1821 and Ames took over the inn. It had a wing at each end and a brick oven in the cellar. The blue tavern sign measured four by six feet with a red border. Painted on it were a bush full of birds and a man holding a bird. The inscription read—"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." In 1867 Julia Ames Hill sold the property to W. H. Fuller-

ton, who sold it to Dr. Ezra Edson. When Emerson Estabrook bought it, he remodeled the third floor into an opera house and sold the west wing to H. W. Mattison for a home. Over 100 tickets were sold to the grand opening in May 1884.

In 1887 the hostelry was threatened by fire when Mrs. Estabrook aired some feather beds on the roof. They were touched off by sparks from the furnace of a tinsmith working there. (The loss was paid three days later by Fowler & Son, the insurance agency still in existence at Manchester Center.)

Unfortunately six years later, on December 22, 1893, the Opera House burned beyond repair. It was rebuilt in 1896 on the same premises, now the location of the Factory Point National Bank.





## CHAPTER XXIII

### Manchester—A Golf Mecca

FOR nearly seventy years Manchester has had a golf course, and lovers of the ancient sport continue to find their way to this "center of summer golf" as naturally as did the first enthusiasts of the game.

It was George A. Orvis, later proprietor of the Equinox House, who early recognized the growing popularity of golf as a recreational attraction. In 1894 he laid out a crude six-hole course with fairways carved through prairie weed, tamaracks, and swamp in a rough field behind the hotel. Two years later Orvis again took the initiative and interested a number of golfers in developing a nine-hole course a little east of the Village on land north of Union Street. Six of these holes lay on Orvis property while the other three were "borrowed" from the pastureland of Judge Loveland Munson.

This was Manchester's earliest golfing group, "The Hillside Golf Club," composed chiefly of year-round residents. Though the club had rooms in the post office (Hard) block on Union Street, the hotel co-operated with the new sport by building a small clubhouse and locker room. In a short time Manchester welcomed its first professional, Harry Rawlins, whose brother, Horace, was later to become "pro" at the Ekwanok.

Manchester's summer community in "the gay nineties" was composed, as now, of hotel guests and part-time residents. While visiting here in 1899, James L. Taylor of Brooklyn, New York, a leader in the development of golf in the New York area, saw a much greater future for the town as a golf center. Deciding to make Manchester

his summer home, Taylor negotiated for property consisting of a few acres on the east side of U.S. Rte. 7 through the Village and south of the River Road. He also acquired from I. L. Schuyler some 200 adjacent acres north of the River Road and extending east to the Battenkill.

All the early golfers agreed that this farm land in its beautiful mountain setting was admirably adapted in its natural layout for the construction of a first-class golf course. The rolling sweep of land with a stream running through it provided many natural hazards. Most American golf courses were characterized by straight-away fairways crossed at intervals with bunkers flanked by moats of sand. It is little wonder that this Manchester land looked good to golfers who appreciated the Scottish type of layout.

Taylor offered to deed a sufficient amount of this land for construction of an eighteen-hole course and a clubhouse. Meeting at the Manchester home of Henry W. Brown of Philadelphia September 4, 1899 to consider and accept this offer were:

H. W. Brown and J. L. Taylor  
H. M. Sill and C. M. Clark, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Clark Burnham, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Arthur Taylor, New York City  
George A. Orvis, Manchester, Vt.  
Herbert Cassard, Baltimore, Md.

The group formed the "Equinox Country Club" with a capital stock of \$10,000 represented by 200 shares at a par value of \$50 each. Taylor offered to take fifty shares of capital stock as payment for the land deeded.

Edward S. Isham of Chicago, Illinois, summer resident of "Ormsby Hill" in Manchester, was asked to be the club's first president. Upon accepting the honor, Isham suggested that the organization be incorporated as the "Ekwanok Country Club," thus using what is attributed to being the Indian spelling of "Equinox." In addition to the founders and Isham, six more men signed the proposal for incorporation September 7, 1899:

Franklin H. Orvis, Manchester, Vt.  
George E. Thacher, Albany, N. Y.

B. F. Newcomer, Baltimore, Md.  
Edward J. Durban, Philadelphia, Pa.  
F. C. Brown, R. F. McQueen, and  
Joseph Lichtenauer, New York City

On this same date, I. L. Schuyler turned over the deed to James L. Taylor, making it possible for Taylor to give the land as promised to the Ekwanok Country Club.

The first board of governors included Edward S. Isham, James L. Taylor, George Thacher, H. M. Sill, Herbert Cassard, Clark Burnham, Arthur Taylor, George A. Orvis, Henry W. Brown, and C. M. Clark. The first officers assisting Isham were George H. Thacher, first vice-president; James L. Taylor, second vice-president; C. M. Clark, treasurer; George A. Orvis, clerk.

When Robert Todd Lincoln came to Manchester in 1905 to establish summer residence, he was elected president and continued in that capacity until his death in 1926. It is said that when Mr. Lincoln golfed with his famed "Lincoln Foursome" (which was often), they practically had the whole course to themselves. The foursome, composed of Mr. Lincoln, Robert M. Janney of Philadelphia, and Horace G. Young and George H. Thacher of Albany, broke up in 1920 upon the death of Janney. Shortly after Lincoln's death, Mrs. Lincoln presented the Ekwanok Country Club with his golf bag and clubs and also a handsome glass case in which to enshrine them. She also gave the Lincoln Memorial Cup, a trophy in annual competition during the Lincoln Memorial Tourney.

There have been only three secretaries in the history of the club. Clarence M. Clark held that position the longest, from 1899 to 1932. Stanley B. Ineson was secretary from 1932 to 1958 and has been succeeded by John S. McCormick, Jr.

After business transactions were over in 1899, James L. Taylor invited John Duncan Dunn, prominent golf course designer and architect from New York, and Walter Travis, eminent golfer, to design the course. Both men had been in Manchester earlier to advise on the possibilities offered by Taylor's land. While showing them the property, he had remarked that someday it would either be a golf course or a sheep farm and Travis had replied, "I believe you will have one of the finest golf courses in the country."



The turf seemed especially adapted for golf, being firm and springy, while the natural surroundings prevented "baking." The hazards were all natural, with "The Pit" being the largest natural hazard in the country. A force of some fifty men were employed constantly on the links in late September 1899. A steam roller did the leveling; prairie weed was uprooted; long ditches were dug for the many thousand feet of drainpipe to be laid; the greens were seeded. The course, presently 6,485 yards from the back tees, has undergone only minor change since 1903. The seventeenth green has been altered from an elevated figure eight to a flat putting green and the traps have been altered on the sixth and ninth holes. The original fifth hole, now the famous seventh, was on the land of Arthur Taylor and this was purchased from his widow in 1904.

When it was seen that the course would be ready for play in the summer of 1900, a special meeting of the incorporators was held March 16, 1900 in New York City for the approval of clubhouse plans submitted by H. Sellers, Philadelphia architect. Herbert Cassard, hardworking chairman of the construction committee, was authorized to contract with Hiram Eggleston, Manchester builder. It was Cassard who chose the location for the clubhouse, which was immediately in the rear of the present seventeenth tee.

At this time the only outlet to the highway from the deeded land was some distance down the River Road. This was rectified by the purchase of land from H. M. Sill, who constructed at his own expense a driveway from U.S. Rte. 7 opposite Taconic Avenue to the clubhouse. The club thereby had a permanent right-of-way twenty-five feet wide. One more involved negotiation was needed before the entire course was to come under the ownership of the club. This was the purchase of the knoll on which the fifth hole was located from Mrs. Taylor in 1904.

On October 25, 1938 the clubhouse burned at an estimated loss of \$75,000 and was immediately replaced by the present building through the generous financial assistance of Bartlett Arkell, president of the Beech-Nut Packing Corporation, Canajoharie, New York. The new Ekwanok clubhouse was built on the site of the tennis courts.

At the turn of the century, sentiment all over the country was strongly against certain forms of Sunday recreation, golf included.

Mark Willing of Chicago offered \$1,000 to the club with the stipulation that no golf be played on Sunday. A large majority of the incorporators agreed with Willing. In fact, the deed from the James Taylors had specified that "this property should not be used during the Sabbath day for playing golf or for any other purpose inconsistent with the spirit of the existing laws of the State of Vermont." The acceptance of the restrictions was not altered until amendment was voted in July 1911 to eliminate this provision.

The Ladies' Committee, composed of a member from the family of each governor, was formed soon after the first stockholders' meeting July 3, 1900. These women have been responsible for much that is sociable and attractive at the club. It was Miss Elizabeth Isham who suggested the corporate seal—the crest of the Vermont coat of arms, a stag's head. The Bartlett Arkell trophy, decorated with Manchester scenes as rendered in silver from sketches by Luigi Lucioni, was presented to the club by Mrs. Arkell with a trust fund established by her for the annual prize for the medalist of the Robert Todd Lincoln tournament. Annual tourneys for the Orvis and Isham cups ended in 1927 and 1929 respectively.

The success of golfing in Manchester led to the forming of the Vermont State Golf Association in 1902. The first state championship was played at the Ekwanok Country Club in 1903. In 1914 Francis Ouimet won the U. S. National Amateur Golf Championship at the Ekwanok and in 1937 the New England Championship was held there. Patty Berg won a trophy in the first annual Ekwanok women's invitation tournament in 1936. Among other eminent golfers who have staged exhibition matches at the club are Joyce Wethered, English champion; Lawson Little; and Craig Wood. The course is recognized as one of the finest in the United States by a long list of outstanding professional players and golf enthusiasts.

Present officers of the Ekwanok Country Club are Charles S. Sargent, Jr., president; H. C. Keister, vice-president; Charles E. Childs, treasurer; Howard G. Marsden, assistant treasurer; John S. McCormick, Jr., clerk. On the Board of Governors are Allan Brown, John Byler, Charles E. Childs, William A. Coombs, Charles E. Davis, Jr., Maurice G. Field, H. C. Keister, John S. McCormick, Jr., John McGann, Harold S. Matzinger, Elam Miller, Charles W. Nichols, Jr., Carlton Overton, Robert C. Palmer, and Charles S. Sargent, Jr.

Andrew J. Christie (1880–1961) was golf professional and green-keeper at the Ekwanok Country Club for twenty-six years. A native of Scotland, he came to Manchester in 1913.

The Orvis family were always ardent promoters of Manchester as a golfing center. Three were original stockholders of the Ekwanok club—Edward C. Orvis, Franklin H. Orvis, and George A. Orvis. The story of the Equinox Links Club belongs to another member of that enterprising family, Anna Louise Simonds Orvis, widow of George Orvis, and president of the board of directors of the Equinox Company.

It had been evident for a long time that the splendid course at the Ekwanok club could not possibly accommodate all who wished to play there. Mrs. Orvis was willing to invest her money to aid Manchester in keeping a hold on the summer resort business. Land was purchased from Mrs. Fannie Strong and Mrs. Charles Isham. In July 1925 the Equinox Company began construction of an eighteen-hole course designed by Walter J. Travis. This club was to be operated and controlled by the management of the Equinox House and was named the "Equinox Links Club."

A force of some twenty men began draining the land and clearing underbrush, but it was not until the fall of 1926 that construction was finished. Travis spent his entire summer in Manchester giving the work his personal attention. The enterprise was commented upon throughout the state. One northern Vermont newspaper applauded—"Good eighteen hole courses are not commonly found in pairs anywhere in the country."

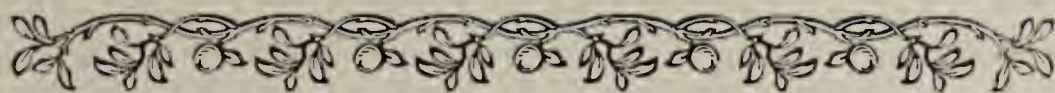
Two houses just east of Wiley's store on Union Street were moved to make a site for the clubhouse, and foundations for the caddy house had been laid close by in 1925. During some eight years, caddies were supplied to both Manchester courses from a caddy camp run by Dr. and Mrs. F. T. Currie of Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Boynton Terrace above Prospect Street in the Village. These boys came solely from Cambridge and vicinity and it was not until depression years that the caddy camp was discontinued and local boys given an opportunity to earn money by caddying.

The official opening of the Equinox Links Club was July 1, 1927. One of the opening events was an exhibition match between Jess Sweetser, the English Open champion, and Francis Ouimet. The



annual contest for the Orvis Cup has been played at the Equinox Links Club since that club came into existence, and for some years the Vermont State Golf Tournament has been played on that course.

Unfortunately the costs of constructing the clubhouse and the course totaled far more than was anticipated. This was the beginning of the Equinox Company's steady financial decline. When A. Rea Ball bought the hotel property including the golf course from a group of Manchester citizens who had taken it over, the Ekwanok Country Club leased the Equinox Links for a term of five years with an option of renewal.



## CHAPTER XXIV

# Winter Business—White Gold

As to Gomorrah on the hill she never lights up winters. The rats play in the cellars, the foxes hunt mice in the streets and the snows of winter lie like a benediction over all. The whole outfit is like a bed of flowers covered up with a white blanket, waiting for the frost to roll by.<sup>1</sup>

SUCH was Manchester in the days when no one dreamed of hidden wealth in snowfall and winter weather. As early as 1913, however, the town made a commercial use of its cold weather assets by the sponsorship of a carnival on the ice park near Dumont Clark's to earn money for new sidewalks. Fancy skating exhibitions, a catered outdoor luncheon, huge bonfires, and the Manchester Band were all part of this enterprise. Helen Perkins (Pearson) was chosen Manchester's first Snow Queen. This same location has remained a community skating rink intermittently through the years. In 1922 it was exceptionally well patronized when the Vermont Hydro-Electric Corporation installed free lights and a shelter was built.

Even in 1923 a courageous few skied at Downer's Glen and in 1931 a "Snowshoe and Ski Club" was organized at Manchester Center. The following winter, illuminated skating rinks were advertised at the Depot behind the home of Alton Hicks and at the Center on the property of Harold D. Giddings.

The Board of Trade slowly awakened to the cold clear fact that

1. *Vermont Advance*, October 6, 1900.

if *local* folk would pay to skate on somebody's flooded meadow, such a romantic amusement would surely appeal to city people. The town was asked to contribute to a fund to advertise Manchester by circulars, newspapers, and outdoor advertising. \$3,000 was promptly subscribed. About this time, a small group met at the Manchester Inn with Mrs. George Orvis and Fred Pabst, Jr., to discuss the possibilities of skiing in Manchester.

In September 1935 a temporary organization for the purpose of promoting winter sports was set up with Robert J. Orvis chairman. A federal project was in view which included the development of ski trails on Equinox Company land on the east slope of Mount Equinox. Mrs. Orvis, president of the company, had been authorized to make any desirable leases necessary for the project to be accepted. The lease was negotiated at a nominal rental to the town for a ten-year period. At the 1935 town meeting it had been voted to sponsor the building of the trails as a W.P.A. project with the government paying seventy-nine per cent of the cost and the balance being furnished by Manchester from other sources. \$800 was to be expended by the Selectmen.

Spurred by this support, the Manchester Outing Club organized in October 1935 at the Court House. This live-wire outfit immediately took charge of opening two ski trails near Deer Knoll on Mount Equinox; flooded the Equinox House tennis courts to make a sheltered skating rink; completed a bobsled run on the Barnumville Road; and investigated the possibilities of getting a snow train for Manchester. The club was quickly boosted by the *Manchester Journal*:

Perhaps the greatest direct benefit now in sight is that which will accrue to our young people in dividends of health. The cooperative spirit exhibited will also benefit all concerned. The experience of other places indicates that there will be a large influx of winter visitors which will benefit the hotels, boarding houses, and tradesmen. . . . Manchester happens to have unusual natural facilities for winter sports much superior to many now popular winter resorts. . . .<sup>2</sup>

The first season was inaugurated January 18, 1936 with a field

2. *Manchester Journal*, January 9, 1936.



day and bonfire at the area near Equinox Pond followed by a dance at the Burr and Burton Seminary gymnasium. Ski races were held on the lower slopes of Deer Knoll and skiers were warned—"Bravado is not skill. If your skis are out of control, fall by throwing yourself backward and sideways in a relaxed position."

Scholastic skiing competitions, snowshoe races, and a hockey game between Arlington High School and Burr and Burton Seminary were held on February 1. The following weekend brought four sled-dog races over an eleven-mile route as part of a series for the New England Championship Cup. Funds to bring the dogs here were collected from townspeople and tradesmen. Though the Manchester Ministerial Association urged the town both publicly and privately to call off Sunday racing, the weekend developed into a gay and profitable affair. Special railroad fares, fancy skating exhibitions, and the presence of the Manchester Band and Governor Charles M. Smith all served to bring out a large crowd. Saturday evening, Ianni's eight-piece orchestra played for the Carnival Ball and G. S. Bennett was master of ceremonies.

It was an auspicious start for a community attempting to drag itself out of the winter doldrums. The Outing Club was renamed the "Manchester Winter Sports Club" and began preparing during the summer and fall of 1936 for the oncoming winter. It announced plans for the opening of a well-constructed and patrolled ski run on Bromley Mountain in the National Forest. This trail, seven miles long, followed the Long Trail from its entrance on the Peru road at a 2,000-foot altitude to the summit of Bromley (3,260 feet), then dropping 800 feet to the south village of East Dorset where it met the highway and railroad near the foot of Little Mad Tom. This ski run was developed at the lower end near East Dorset by the club while the upper section was built as a W.P.A. project under Forester Ralph M. Hutchinson and foreman Walter H. Beebe. The trail was to be kept in condition and patrolled by C.C.C. men who would also render first-aid.

The club also planned to offer two ski tows, one on the east slope of Mount Aeolus, 2,500 feet long and 600 feet vertical descent, which was to be the third largest in the United States and the longest open slope tow in the east. The other was to be within Manchester town limits.

The East Dorset tow, constructed by Fred Pabst and sponsored by the Winter Sports Club, was located one-half mile north of the railroad station on the left of U.S. Rte. 7 behind the James Beebe farm. Above it were four miles of trails to tie up the two abandoned quarries on Aeolus and to make possible a circuit over the mountains into Dorset Hollow.

A slope to be lighted evenings was established close to the fifth hole of the Equinox Links Club near the foot of Union Street in the Village.

Unfortunately, this was all the planning and work of some fifteen or twenty enthusiasts while the rest of Manchester watched with mild interest and not a little criticism. Some even thought the Winter Sports Club was out for its own profit. The *Manchester Journal* pleaded for the co-operation of the entire community:

Labor is needed, money is needed, and above all, intelligent interest. Without this help, the work of the committees cannot succeed. . . . Where Manchester has not offered any financial help toward the building of the ski tow (on Bromley) other towns have raised up to \$2000 to induce the Ski Tow, Inc. to build tows within their limits. The management of the Manchester tow has been most generous and cooperative. It is up to the town to help make their venture a success.<sup>3</sup>

The *Journal* urged two ways to raise money—through club memberships or through donations. \$500 was quickly pledged and one summer resident offered to match any sum raised among other summer residents. The enthusiasm became contagious. A tractor was contributed and people, armed with hoes, rakes, picks, shovels, and hatchets, volunteered for trail and slope clearing. The stores were urged to incorporate the winter sports theme in window displays and townsfolk were called upon to offer low-cost comfortable rooms with plenty of hot water and good simple food to attract skiers.

Even the Mark Skinner Library offered a special section of reading material for winter sports enthusiasts. Ski lessons, and there were plenty of novices in those days, were printed in the *Manchester Journal* along with advice on snow conditions. Today even Man-

3. *Manchester Journal*, October 29, 1936.

chester's youngest skiers know that "rain in the valley is often snow on the mountain." The New York Central Railroad finally agreed to run one snow train January 15, 1937 and more, if successful.

The club's bobsled run, 0.88 of a mile long and very fast, which had been constructed in 1935 from the old toll gate to Barnumville, was improved and bobsleds were available to rent. An indoor skating rink, 170 by 45 feet, with a heated dressing room, was established at the Carsden Inn Garage belonging to the Equinox Company. It was sponsored that first year by the Winter Sports Club. Everything appeared to be ready. Indeed, once the idea caught fire, the area became developed so quickly that it was soon recognized as one of the finest in the east. Manchester sat back and waited.

Alas! NO SNOW! Though Manchester was to grow accustomed to the unfortunate situation, it would never be accepted graciously. The community cooled its heels until the middle of March. Though snowfall was never sufficient to rate a snow train that year, special rates were offered from New York City and some 500 persons attended races with thirty-five competitors on the Bromley run.

It is remarkable that the Winter Sports Club had the courage to ask for a \$2,000 appropriation from the town to further promote a permanent winter resort business which it felt would bring substantial cash returns to nearly everybody in town. It was estimated that one snow train bearing 500 people into Manchester to spend an average sum of \$10 each would leave a total of \$5,000 in the community. "Winter sports," the Club argued, "promise to be as permanent an institution as golf and if Manchester can get this business . . . it will relieve much of our business stagnation in the winter." The people, with hope in their hearts, voted for the appropriation, 124-71.

In 1938 the Club reported how it had spent the money:

1. Supervision, construction, and maintenance of two new ski trails and a forest slalom on Mount Equinox and also the "Battenkill Ski Tow" with a 700-foot length and 200-foot vertical drop on the golf course.
2. Rebuilding and improvement of the Mount Aeolus tow and slope and the Bromley area including the setting up of signs and markers.



3. Maintenance of a ski patrol and first-aid equipment.
4. Maintenance of club headquarters and the skating rink.
5. Written publicity and provision of a telephone-telegraph information service.

Also that winter, plans had been made for a shuttle train to go back and forth to the slopes in East Dorset, and for three snow trains.

Again NO SNOW! Finally, on January 22, 1938 the first snow train with 116 passengers was welcomed at the Depot. For the first time, too, Ski Tows, Inc., opened its 850-foot rope tow on so-called Peru Mountain. The skating rink again opened at the Carsden Garage and \$500 was voted by the town for its maintenance with the balance of its cost to be derived from fees to enter the rink. Though under the supervision of the Selectmen, Clifford B. Graham was the manager for many years succeeded by Harry Mercier and Bryce Tuttle until 1950, when the town, which had always had a close vote and in 1940 had voted against the rink, again refused the appropriation. In the winter of 1947-1948 the rink was built on a foundation of twenty truckloads of sawdust. It was a real community undertaking that year because of an acute water shortage. The shortage not only delayed the opening, but forced the town to transport all the water needed to fill the rink. Despite the fact that the taxpayers seemed reluctant to favor the rink, it was exceedingly popular and offered an annual carnival on colored ice that drew large crowds. In 1952 the balance of the skating rink fund was used to build a sounding board at the bandstand at Manchester Center.

In April 1938 the Winter Sports Club estimated that approximately \$15,000 had been spent in the area during the previous winter. A meeting was called on June 23 to organize a Chamber of Commerce to further promote the town as a resort center.

In November 1938 the construction of a 2,200-foot rope tow by Ski Tows, Inc., was begun on the west side of Bromley meadows. This was the beginning of Fred Pabst's enormous Big Bromley development and the tow was unique in that it had a turn in the up-ski route. A new forest slalom was also begun 100 yards beyond where the Long Trail crosses routes 11-30. Bobsledding teams that year raced on Nichols' run in Dorset sponsored by the Manchester

Rotary Club. The Winter Sports Club began to acquire such ski paraphernalia as stop watches and first-aid kits.

The holiday crowd over New Year's in 1939 was the biggest Manchester had yet seen. Snow train service by then had become permanent. On Saturday morning, two cars were set off on the Manchester siding with forty-eight passengers aboard. Harry Starks provided heat with an improvised steam plant. The cars remained in town until Monday morning, when a southbound train picked them up.

In February came the second annual visit and races of the Amateur Ski Clubs of New York. Roland Palmedo, an official of the clubs and frequent Manchester visitor, became one of the area's best publicists. Other ski pioneers besides Palmedo and Pabst were Dave Parsons, Ralph Hutchinson, and John Perry. The latter formed a ski team at Burr and Burton Seminary.

During the summer of 1939 volunteers were called to help cut and clear a major ski trail on the upper eastern slope of Mount Aeolus in anticipation of a continuous run of 2,300 vertical feet from the summit. The golf course rope tow was removed by Ski Tows, Inc., as a financial failure, though floodlights were retained by the Winter Sports Club.

The Chamber of Commerce advertising committee which had been very active handling both summer and winter publicity made its first report in 1941. The following vote was passed by a narrow margin at town meeting:

That the Town of Manchester appropriate, by matching dollar for dollar, what sums of money may be actually raised by other means, to be devoted to the purpose set forth in article 14 (advertising and promoting Manchester as a resort), a sum not to exceed \$1500, the monies to be expended under direction of a committee composed of chairman of Selectmen, Treasurer of the town of Manchester and one appointee of the Chamber of Commerce.

This vote was repeated in 1942 and was cut to \$500 in 1943, probably because of the war. The question was ignored until 1947, when Manchester appropriated \$3,000, the largest sum ever, and again in 1949, by a close vote. The appropriation was voted down in 1948, 1950, and 1951. In 1952, \$1,000 was turned down and in 1957,

\$2,500. In 1953 the town did vote to spend \$450 to reprint the Four Season folders. Finally, in 1958, \$1,500 was again voted to be spent with any other money raised or contributed by the Chamber of Commerce for promoting the interests of Manchester. This was also voted by a narrow margin in 1959 and 1960.

The town attitude as expressed in these votes is indeed curious, considering that Manchester has changed its entire economic set-up for the better and acquired an international reputation as an American ski center through development of the winter business. During the ninety-four day season of 1959-1960 an estimated \$1,650,000 was left in Manchester by winter tourists alone.<sup>4</sup> In earlier years, the frustrated Chamber of Commerce repeatedly tried to arouse more support:

The winter business means much to every person in Manchester and in this area; in fact this has been called the million dollar business. This means that much interest and work has gone into the promotion of the facilities. . . . No one ever dreamed that we had such hidden wealth in these surrounding hills until outsiders came in and developed it for us.

At one point, as the result of the appropriation being voted down, Walter Hard suggested that revenue could be raised if every Manchester adult paid \$1 weekly for a year. This was to be called the "Walter Hard Club." At a special meeting of businessmen, over \$2,000 was raised before they left the room.

The winter of 1941-1942 saw the birth of a junior ski program in Manchester under the instruction of Nat Niles and also the formation of a ski patrol at the Snow Valley area. The Winter Sports Club supervised the Southern Vermont Downhill and Slalom championships and the Annual Father and Son Tournament of the U.S.E.A.S.A., both at Bromley. It also operated weekend bus service to the ski areas.

On January 7, 1943, with the best snowfall for such an early date since 1935, business really boomed! Every housewife in town who had a spare room prepared to go into business, as housing facilities were sorely needed. A booking service and ski information bureau was managed that year by Sally Litchfield, later to become first lady of skiing in Manchester as the wife of Fred Pabst.

4. Estimate reached by Fred Pabst from formula worked out in relation to lift receipts at Big Bromley.



In September 1946 the Chamber of Commerce reorganized and established headquarters at the Colburn House with one secretary employed all year round and a second employed during the winter by the ski areas to issue snow reports and information. By 1948 both Big Bromley and Snow Valley were on the schedule of the U.S.E.A.S.A. with six competitions for the winter. A pitiful lack of snow for the 1953-1954 season brought cloud-seeding operations called "Project Snow" to the area by a nonprofit local corporation that kept the cloud seeder and his equipment on hand.

The Chamber of Commerce has sponsored an annual Winter Carnival since 1959.

### § *Snow Valley*

THIS ski area five miles east of Manchester with a top elevation of 2,800 feet is the result of an 800-acre development that began in October 1941. Work was done by a twenty-man force on the north slope just off route 30 at the top of Bondville Hill. The site had been purchased from the International Paper Company by Paul Kollsman, inventor and aviation executive of Greenwich, Connecticut. He became president of Snow Valley, Inc., with the work directed by his nephews, Dolf and Walter Rath.

The backbone of Snow Valley was to be a 2,500-foot alpine lift designed by Constam, whose famous Swiss installations were duplicated all over the world. Snow Valley opened in late January 1942 with 800 people in attendance. The lift began operating in March. John Ortlieb was the first agent, and Otto Lang, an Austrian who had attended the Hannes Schneider Ski School, directed the Otto Lang Ski School which served both Snow Valley and Bromley.

Because of gas and oil shortages, sleighs were used in the winter of 1943 for transportation to the Valley. Recognizing the lack of sufficient lodgings to accommodate skiers, Snow Valley, Inc., leased the Worthy Inn at Manchester Village, later purchasing it in May 1948. Fred Iselin was director of the children's free ski school which held competitions at Snow Valley in 1944 between the Village and the Center schools. Sig Buchmayr has also been in charge of the ski school.

Among championship races run at Snow Valley have been the

Junior Four-Way Meet and the Invitation (Open) Team Race for men and women. The area now has one rope tow, one Poma lift, one T-Bar lift, seven trails, and four open slopes which are owned and operated by Fred Colclough.

### § *Big Bromley*

THIS colorful ski resort is seven miles east of Manchester on route 11; top elevation, 3,260 feet, and bottom elevation, 1,860 feet. A total winter's snowfall amounting to ten feet at higher elevations and immaculately cleared slopes and trails provide the best of ski conditions from Christmas to April.

Fred Pabst, son of a Milwaukee brewer, and his wife, Sally Litchfield Pabst, are responsible for turning Bromley into one of the outstanding American ski areas. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Pabst was one of the organizers of the Badger Ski Club, which took part in the first collegiate ski event in the United States. Following graduate work at Harvard Business School, he spent ten years in the family business as an executive vice-president. It was after attending Hannes Schneider's Austrian ski school that he established Canada's first permanent rope tow in 1935 at St. Sauveur in the Laurentians. Each year he added other tows—in Intervale and Plymouth, New Hampshire; East Dorset, Vermont; Lake George, New York; and Wausau, Wisconsin—until the problem of absentee ownership and promotion made him decide on Manchester, Vermont, for permanent operation.

His mile-long tramway, a J-Bar lift 2,800 feet long with a rise of 690 feet at the Big Bromley area, opened in December 1942 as the lower of two lifts designed to provide a continuous mile-long trip to the peak. Both tramways were planned to serve seven trails, four open slopes, and two forest slaloms. A rope tow serviced the Little Bromley slope. By 1960, the area had increased to eight trails, seven major slopes, six J-Bar lifts, one Poma lift, and a 5,750-foot electrically-powered chair lift with double seats running express to the top of Bromley Mountain all year round.

The area employs a work force of some 100 people, has a trained ski patrol and high calibre ski school staff, and boasts a restaurant, ski shop, and nursery. In 1949 weekend buses to the ski area from

Boston and New York City were arranged by Pabst with the Greyhound and Vermont Transit lines.

A junior ski program for Manchester school children was started by Sally Pabst in 1952 and is now sponsored by the Bromley Ski Club. Among the races held at Bromley have been the Pre-Season Junior Giant Slalom, the U.S.E.A.S.A. Veterans Downhill, Slalom, and Combined, and the Open Giant Slalom. The latter is the annual Louise Orvis Trophy Race first held in 1948 in honor of Mrs. George Orvis, who was first to foresee the possibilities of winter sports in Manchester. The large trophy, donated by John Ortlieb and Fred Pabst, is inscribed and remains in Manchester, while a smaller replica is awarded to the winners.

Spectacular Washington's Birthday celebrations were held several years at Bromley featuring a snow queen, fireworks, and a torchlight slalom.

Ski Tows, Inc., the Pabst pioneer development, together with world-famous Big Bromley, have given Manchester over a twenty-five year period a new lease on life. Walter Hard has said:

Only the wilfully blind fail to see the economic blessings which this development of a natural resource—snow—formerly considered for the most part as a costly nuisance, has brought to the region.<sup>5</sup>

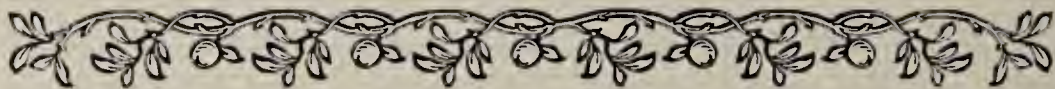
Another Manchester man put it this way:

I am not the same fellow I was fourteen years ago. Then I was what you would call the worst of its type. Today I think I am a good citizen and I know there were lots of people on the rocks the same time I was. Thanks to you, Fred Pabst, and all the others, for what you have done for us.<sup>6</sup>

5. *Manchester Journal*, March 3, 1960. Letter to the Editor.

6. *Manchester Journal*, March 1948. Letter to the Editor.





## CHAPTER XXV

# Cultural, Fraternal, and Social Organizations

SKINNER POST NO. 24, DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC Chartered May 9, 1873; organized July 16, 1879 by Manchester Civil War veterans; post named in honor of Lt. Richard Skinner (son of Mark Skinner of Chicago, grandson of Governor Richard Skinner), mortally wounded in the Petersburg Battle; David K. Simonds, first commander; its auxiliary, the WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS, organized 1886; Mrs. J. C. Blackmer, first president; responsible for placing monument "To Our Union Soldiers" in Factory Point Cemetery, 1900.

LT. J. C. BLACKMER CAMP NO. 60, SONS OF VETERANS Organized December 1889 to carry on spirit and efforts of the rapidly declining G.A.R.; A. J. Davis, first commander; began as a state organization in 1886; group still active in 1926, but soon disbanded and gave up charter; the AUXILIARY TO THE SONS OF VETERANS organized 1907; Miss Nina Marsh, first president.

ORMSBY CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Organized January 22, 1896 at Thayer's Hotel as an offshoot of the defunct Brownson chapter of Arlington and sponsored by Mrs. Burdett, State Regent from Arlington, who transferred Janet P. Blackmer to Manchester to be first regent; chapter named in honor of Major Ormsby's sister and chartered April 2, 1896; charter members were Junia Thayer, Mary Utley Robbins, Jennie Fish Reed, Emilie Bonesteel Perkins, Ellen Hilliard Morris, Mary

V. Connor, Louise P. Wyman, Junia Thayer Dewey, Jennie R. Giddings, Susan Bucklin, Mary Scott Botsford, Mary Louise Wyman; chapter has placed markers on graves of all Revolutionary soldiers in Manchester and has reset seventeen milestones on old New York-Montreal post road from Bennington to East Dorset; also responsible for stone marking route 30 as Seth Warner Memorial Highway dedicated June 18, 1937.

MANCHESTER POST, VETERANS OF THE WORLD WAR OF 1917 Organized May 1919.

AMERICAN LEGION POST, NO. 38 Developed from the preceding group and is still active; has an auxiliary; from 1920 to 1933 held annual field day, which was revived in 1946, 1950.

HARNED-FOWLER POST, NO. 6471, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Organized February 21, 1946 by some fifty veterans, mostly of World War II; post named in honor of James Harned and Harvey K. Fowler, who died in the service of their country; eighty veterans signed charter for membership; Lynford Bourn, first post commander; headquarters located between Center and Depot purchased September 1948; Philip Kelleher of this post, commander of Vermont Encampment, 1953; post responsible for annual Loyalty Day parade, annual fishing derby, community Halloween party, improvement of park at Center; its AUXILIARY was organized mainly through efforts of Marion Healey; first officers, of which Mrs. Bernard Miller was president, installed November 25, 1946.

WALTER D. ELCOX POST NO. 4, DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT, LEGION OF GUARDSMEN Organized 1946, Fred P. Heinel, commander; membership composed of any former state or national guardsmen or servicemen from either peacetime or war; post named in honor of Walter D. Elcox, who died in the service of his country during World War II; Heinel elected Deputy Chief of State, 1948 and State Department Judge Advocate, 1949; L. E. Galaise and William E. Thompson, state commanders, 1949 and 1953; fourth annual state convention held in Manchester, 1950; group sponsored sportsman's show, 1948, 1949 and sponsors annual lawn party.

**CIVIC CLUB** Organized June 1914 "to aid in every effort for the betterment of the town"; first officers: Margaret S. Hard, president; Emilie Perkins, vice-president; Mary Utley Robbins, secretary; Sarah Brown, treasurer.

**MANCHESTER BRANCH, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** Organized October 1923 by Miss Laura Steel, Mrs. Albert C. Orvis, Mrs. Claude M. Campbell, Mrs. William A. Griffith, Mrs. Henry W. Eliot, Mrs. Benjamin Hamlin, and Miss Jeanie Jackson; first president, Mrs. Madison C. Bates; thirty-five charter members; group active intermittently until 1942; afternoon study groups to educate Manchester women in the intelligent use of voting privilege.

**WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB OF MANCHESTER** Organized 1924; for several years very active, having largest per capita membership of any Vermont town; meeting to reactivate, 1936, at home of ex-president Mrs. Claude M. Campbell; first officers after reactivation: Mrs. W. A. Griffith, president; Mrs. G. S. Bennett, Mrs. E. L. Bigelow, and Mrs. Ray W. Holt; group again inactive about 1940.

**THE FORUM** Organized January 1923 as a men's club in the Village meeting fortnightly for the presentation and discussion of papers, e.g. "Probate Law," paper by Judge Edward Griffith; "Signs of Progress in the Church," by the Rev. John Ten Dyke.

**COMMUNITY CLUB** Organized May 3, 1920 by some forty men and women in the Village to bring together socially all adult residents of the Village and to create a mutual interest in each other and in the community; this club was probably a union of the ladies' "Get-Together Club" and the men's "Pede Club," which continued to meet separately, although joint meetings were held about eight times annually; club membership totaled 175 at its peak; for its philanthropies, this club undertook many projects, the most successful of which was an annual block dance in front of the Equinox House; diminishing interest and finances led to disbanding July 1938.

**MANCHESTER ROTARY CLUB** Organized April 1937 after preliminary discussion meetings at Burr and Burton Seminary led by



L. H. Thompson; first regular meetings with twenty-seven members to elect officers May 1937; club instituted June 24, 1937; Charter Night at Union Opera House with charter members—R. C. Brewster, president; J. B. Campbell, secretary; C. O. Brewster, H. L. Adams, J. T. Brown, M. Cohen, J. Colburn, C. A. Comar, H. K. Fowler, P. W. Fowler, S. Greenbaum, E. Griffith, W. R. Hard, T. J. Healey, R. W. Holt, F. L. Howard, R. E. Howes, P. P. LaBounty, L. F. Martin, L. E. Pierce, L. F. Schlieder, C. Swezey, Sr., E. H. Swift, L. H. Thompson, C. Whalen, S. C. Worden, and C. E. Young; group now numbers thirty-four; one of many nation-wide civic groups; most outstanding of the infinite number of services rendered to Manchester probably was construction and operation of Rotary Swimming Pool for public use at Manchester Center; club has furnished one District Governor, G. S. Bennett, who served 1957–1958; he was Rotary Counsellor, 1958–1959.

**LIONS CLUB OF MANCHESTER** Organized at two meetings sponsored by Bennington Lions, December 12, 1951 and January 9, 1952; a service organization doing many community services of worth, the Lions Charter Night was March 19, 1952; first officers, Alton M. Hicks, president; Oscar Johnson, Jr., vice-president; Elmer MacDonald, 2nd vice-president; Charles Hawkins, 3rd vice-president; Berry Wall, secretary; Waldemar Anderson, treasurer; Thomas J. Cochrane, tail twister; Alex Knothe, lion tamer; group holds annual minstrel and auction to earn money for such projects as bicycle safety program, eyeglasses for needy children, and the Alton Hicks Scholarship Fund.

**MANCHESTER MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION** A group of local pastors who held annual meetings for many years and was at its peak in the 1930s; its counterpart, composed of men from the various churches, was the **CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD**.

**WESTERN VERMONT VALLEY FARMER'S ASSOCIATION** Organized 1871 at Adams Hall, Factory Point; F. B. Hollister, secretary.

**MANCHESTER BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION** Organized about 1905 or 1906 in an endeavor to work together for the benefit of

Manchester; annual banquets held; Frank Archibald, one of the leaders.

GRANT LODGE, NO. 194, INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS A temperance group existing at Factory Point between 1869 and 1883 and probably longer; met at Adams Hall; successor to BENNINGTON COUNTY TEMPERANCE UNION which in 1862 had executive committees in each town—Zerah Hard, Calvin P. Smith, Robert Ames from Manchester; a junior temperance group here as early as 1909 was LOYAL TEMPERANCE LEGION, probably part of an adult branch of the BENNINGTON COUNTY WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION which held "No License" rallies in 1906 and invited speakers from the "Anti-Saloon League" to Manchester.

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS Organized in 1895 largely through efforts of Miss Jessie O. Hawley; the *Manchester Journal* reported that "A glaring case of cruelty to a horse in the streets of this town—though not by a citizen of this town—resulted in the forming of the local branch"; some of earliest officers were D. K. Simonds, Dr. John F. Page, Henry W. Davis, James A. Thayer, and Miss Hawley; group gave prizes at the Manchester Fair for work horses showing best care; became inactive in 1928; an affiliated children's group, CHILDREN OF THE BAND OF MERCY, organized in Manchester elementary schools by efforts of Sarah N. Cleghorn; besides animal protective work, its philanthropies included Russian famine relief and Fresh Air Children's Fund; huge children's rally, 1900, at Village Court House to foster kindness to animals.

MANCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Organized October 1897 at the home of the Misses Julia F. and Wilhelmina Hawley, who, with Miss Hermione Canfield, conceived the idea; first officers, E. J. Hawley, president; Julia Hawley, 1st vice-president; Anna L. Purdy, 2nd vice-president; Hermione Canfield and Wilhelmina Hawley, secretaries; Theodore Swift, treasurer; society incorporated 1898 "to collect and preserve scattered bits of history about Manchester; to locate, and if possible, mark places of historic interest in the town; and, recognizing that the doings of the present

form the history of the past, to record such passing events as portray the life of the town from year to year, and to provide a convenient and reliable source of information concerning it"; also to provide a complete genealogy of the early settlers of Manchester as long as they were connected with the town; most recent reactivation of the group, 1960, when The Harris C. Whipple Collection of Manchesteriana was given to the Society by his brother, John C. Whipple.

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB** Organized in Manchester in 1956 as a branch of the national organization; in its work for civic improvement this group was influential in arranging for floodlighting the Congregational church spire.

**BUSINESS GIRLS CLUB** Organized April 9, 1935, meeting monthly at the Mark Skinner Library; first officers were Barbara Shaw, Mildred Healey, and Mary Lombardy; club became defunct about 1941.

**MANCHESTER BRANCH, CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY** This group was the most active during the 1920s and 1930s as part of the larger state organization; Miss Mary Gleason, a prominent member; this organization preceded the Manchester Welfare and Nursing Association in local welfare work.

**MANCHESTER BRANCH, AMERICAN RED CROSS** Organized during World War I and has reactivated several times, in 1932 with Rev. W. J. Brown, chairman, and in 1936; in 1937 chapter raised large sum for relief of flood-stricken in Midwest; also furnished transportation to and swimming lessons at Hapgood Pond until 1940; in October 1940 local chapter dissolved and county relocation made, with Manchester becoming member of Northern Bennington County Chapter, which included nine towns with Manchester as headquarters; in April 1941 local group formally organized as "Battenkill Valley Chapter," I. N. Bartlett, president; first blood drawing in town for blood bank under Red Cross supervision 1949; local group became inactive again in 1952.

**KOOS-KOOS-KEES CAMPFIRE GIRLS** Organized about 1915 by girls of high school age who had "campfire room" at Burr and Burton Seminary; group later became known as the "Ekwanok Campfire"; Margaret Hard and Ethel Bennett were leaders.



**GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA** Organized as a Manchester branch in 1943 in addition to a Brownie troop; three troops active in 1944 contributing to war effort by collection of waste paper; Senior Service troop for older girls, 1945; Girl Scout Jamboree held at Manchester Center, 1947, to demonstrate Scout work to public; organization and existence of Scout troops have been intermittent since; among leaders have been Mrs. Stephen Baker, Mrs. Lionel Dulac, Miss Helen Hubbell, Mrs. William Hitchcock, Jr., Mrs. Fred Pabst, and Mrs. Joseph E. Fowler.

**CUB SCOUTS OF AMERICA** Organized June 1945 as an adjunct to Boy Scouting in Manchester and sponsored by the Rotary Club; Francis E. Smalley, first leader; four dens formed at beginning.

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA** Organized in Manchester about 1913; Village patrol formed 1919 under Walter Hard, G. S. Bennett, and Albert Smith; Troop #1, Manchester Center, organized December 17, 1925 at Baptist church with twenty-eight boys led by Robert C. Brewster and Alton Hicks; second troop organized February 1926 led by the Rev. D. Cunningham Graham and Clifford B. Graham; later scoutmasters have included P. P. LaBounty, Paul W. Fowler, Warren Adams, Walter Stewart, Orrin Beattie, and Ferdinand Bongartz; Beattie lauded for his excellent work and Brewster, still in scouting in 1944, then awarded Silver Beaver by the Green Mountain Council for his devotion to Manchester boys; county-wide Scout rallies held here 1939, 1952; in 1953 Robert West and Robert Treat attended third National Jamboree; in 1951 David Harwood attended World Jamboree in Austria; Alexander Zoesch, Jr., Manchester's first Eagle Scout, 1949; sponsorship of Boy Scouting in Manchester has been by Rotary Club and the American Legion Post; three Manchester men on executive board of directors, Green Mountain Council, 1960, are Robert C. Brewster, John Laughlin, and Howard Dufresne.

**COLUMBUS CLUB** A men's club in the Village existing prior to 1907 as a social means of enlivening the long winter evenings.

**ONDAWA CLUB** Organized November 1907 as a successor to the Columbus Club; some fifty members from all three villages played

billiards or pool and had the services of a "first class steward"; headquarters on top floor of "Hard" block, Union Street, Village; group disbanded in 1918.

**UNION CLUB** Organized March 1909 in rooms back of the bank at Manchester Center for cards, pool, sociability; group gave annual minstrel show until becoming defunct in 1926.

**ONDAWA FISH AND GAME CLUB** Existed at Factory Point in rooms on second floor of Howe block (burned December 1893) from about 1883 until 1887; among its officers were Mason S. Colburn, Loveland Munson, Robert Ames, and Sylvester Deming; membership totaled about twenty-five.

**MANCHESTER ROD AND GUN CLUB** Organized 1923, though an earlier **MANCHESTER GUN CLUB** existed about 1907; though somewhat inactive at the present date, Leon Wiley is president and the group belongs to the Southern Vermont Federation of Sportsmen, a conservation group of some sixteen rod and gun clubs from Bennington and Windham counties and the southern part of Windsor county; in the past the club has placed scores of fingerling trout into tributaries of the Battenkill and has released hundreds of young pheasant; in 1937 the club removed the rapidly multiplying goldfish that were starving out the trout in Equinox Pond; in 1933, an affiliated group, the very active **MT. AEOLUS RIFLE TEAM**, was organized; it became part of the National Rifle Association, 1946, and its Manchester and Dorset members meet regularly for contests with other towns; Ira Adams, president for over fifteen years; younger members under Fred P. Heinel learn proper use of firearms; permanent headquarters of Rod and Gun Club are on the Manchester Fair Grounds, which were purchased, along with the buildings, by Bartlett Arkell and presented to the organization.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB** A meeting, probably under the sponsorship of the Bennington County Improvement Society, was held in 1914 to discuss trail-making between Canada and the Massachusetts border; in April 1914 a meeting in Manchester completed

organization of a local section to come under the state group; first officers, H. M. Swift, Erna Camradt, Bertha Shaw, Otto R. Bennett; initial clearing of trail, 1923, at request of Rutland Green Mountain Club officials; Herbert W. Congdon of Arlington credited with bringing about this early organization; second Manchester section organized in October 1931 at the Battenkill Inn with Edwin L. Bigelow, David L. Bulkley, and Berniece Graham as officers; the membership, about twelve, agreed to assume responsibility for care and maintenance of fifteen-mile stretch of Long Trail from Bourn Pond to Mad Tom Lodge; trail relocated and brought out to Spruce Peak; in 1933 and 1934 vigorous club undertook construction of large, well-built Bromley Lodge from lumber, marble salvaged from an old Vermont Marble Company mill; among ardent boosters of this organization, which became defunct in the early 1940s, were Florence Kelton, Alice Hewitt, Clifford B. Graham, and the Rev. Walker Hawley; Edwin L. Bigelow, president for many years, was also trustee of the state organization (1932-1938); I. N. Bartlett was trustee (1946-1952).

**MANCHESTER RIDING AND TRAIL CLUB** Organized August 7, 1930 and existed until 1949; first officers were Sherley W. Morgan, Frank C. Overton, and Robert T. Lee; in addition to large picnics and trail riding, this club also erected a twenty-foot tower for viewing from the summit of Mount Equinox in 1933; at its peak, this group numbered as many as forty, mostly summer residents.

**MANCHESTER ALPINE ASSOCIATION** Existed in 1909, one of the many short-lived clubs for hiking to be organized through the years; **SNOWSHOE CLUBS** were organized in 1906, 1931; a later development in this type was the Manchester branch of the **AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTEL**, which functioned here prior to World War II; Manchester houseparents for this national organization were Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Haskins, and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Grinnell, the latter couple being in charge during a postwar reactivation.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS ASSOCIATION** Organized in 1928 "to promote and conserve the friendly and social relations of those men



accustomed to come to Manchester or its vicinity during the summer months"; originally composed of some 350 members, this group published an annual yearbook and held annual banquets in the spring in New York City and in the fall at the Equinox House; somewhat philanthropic in nature, in 1946 the club gave prizes to caddies from Arlington High School and Burr and Burton Seminary who held highest scholastic standings and showed greatest general improvement; the group has been inactive since 1954, when Robert C. Palmer was re-elected president.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN GIRLS ASSOCIATION** Preliminary plans for a club to match the Green Mountain Boys at the suggestion of the Hon. John F. Montgomery were made at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Robert T. Lee; formal organization of the **GREEN MOUNTAIN GIRLS GOLF ASSOCIATION** was accomplished in 1927 at the old Ekwanok Country Club with fifteen members having a mutual interest in golf; group may have been instrumental in giving women, who were then not especially favored on Manchester courses, "equal" golfing rights; aims of this club, now limited to 150 members, are mostly social and philanthropic; especially benefiting from their generosity have been Burr and Burton Seminary, Manchester Welfare and Nursing Association, and the New England Kurn Hattin Homes; during World War II the Green Mountain Boys and Girls sent the *Manchester Journal* to all local servicemen and women.

**ONDAWA BASEBALL CLUB** Manchester's earliest baseball team; in 1868 or 1870 it won state championship in Rutland against the "Unknowns"; held championship four and a half years and upon disbanding gave it to the Pawlet "Stars," who had come closest to defeating them; success of this club due mainly to the pitching of Loveland Munson, who gained his great control by spending many winter hours pitching through a fifteen-inch iron ring made for him by blacksmith Henry Lugene; other team members were John Beach, Henry Bundy, Mason S. Colburn, Dr. Lewis Hemenway, Ernest Lathrop, Herbert Walker, John H. Whipple, and Lugene.

**RIP VAN WINKLE BASEBALL CLUB** Organized September 1871 with L. C. Orvis, president; in October 1871 the **EQUINOX BASE-**

BALL CLUB was formed and since then a men's athletic association of some kind has functioned in Manchester nearly every year; in the summer of 1927 the MANCHESTER BASEBALL TEAM was organized for games with other communities at the Fair Grounds; in the 1930s W. A. Griffith was manager for a town team that rented part of the airport for a diamond; Bartlett Arkell, president of Beech-Nut Packing Company and Manchester summer resident, arranged games between the Manchester and Canajoharie, New York, players in 1935 and 1936; a MANCHESTER ATHLETIC CLUB was organized in November 1937; another reorganization took place in 1947 under Joseph G. Anthony and later in 1957 under William Manley.

POLO CLUB Organized at Factory Point in March 1885.

BICYCLE CLUB Organized in 1940 by some twenty-eight young people; Roy Dunn, Jr., president, and Phyllis Hurley (Beattie), secretary.

MANCHESTER WINTER SPORTS CLUB Organized October 1935 at the Village Court House for the purpose of promoting winter sports in this area and was briefly known as the MANCHESTER OUTING CLUB; Christopher Swezey, Sr., first president; by 1941 the Chamber of Commerce had taken over most of the promotional functions of this club and it ceased to exist as such until formation of the BROMLEY SKI CLUB; latter organization numbered as many as forty in late 1951 and adopted a shoulder patch designed by Fritz Dillmann; first officers of this group elected about February 1952 were George Finlay, Joseph E. Fowler, Bob Allcott, and Bob Kittner; in December 1949 a second MANCHESTER OUTING CLUB organized to develop tennis, hiking, and other outdoor social activities; first officers of the group still very active in late 1951 were C. B. Vaughn, Margaret Knothe, and Wilbur Bull.

EQUINOX FLYING CLUB Organized July 17, 1959 for the purpose of furthering local aviation and providing aircraft, instruction, and facilities for the purpose; charter members and officers were Joseph Charbonneau, president; Bernice Wilcox, vice-president;

George B. Breen, secretary; Alfred MacConnach, treasurer; Byrne Warren, operations manager; John Kent, Ray Powers, Ethan Allen, John Miller, and Jay Meyers; this club meets in the ready room of Equinox Airport, where it has improved runways and painted the hangar roof; two members are commercial rated pilots, two are private pilots, and six are students.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, BATTENKILL VALLEY AERIE Organized October 1946 with its first installation at Burr and Burton Seminary; first officers were Harry Mercier, Roy Jackson, Merrill Hale, Milton Brophy, and Albert Lorenzo; Lorenzo was president, Vermont Aerie, 1953; the Eagles' AUXILIARY was formed in 1951.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS The present lodge in Manchester is the fourth to be organized, all others being defunct; February 14, 1849 Thomas Manley, Cyrus A. Roberts, Robinson Andrus, H. K. Fowler, and J. C. Hill petitioned for a lodge at Factory Point, which charter (Battenkill Lodge #15) was granted; in 1855, on action of Grand Master of Vermont, charter was suspended "because of alarming and serious internal difficulty"; August 13, 1856 charter granted to Phoenix Lodge #28 of Factory Point, and on February 15, 1864, Excelsior Encampment #4 of Phoenix Lodge opened with Dr. Ezra Edson in charge; charter surrendered in 1884 "a victim of its own disregard of constitutional requirements"; for a time whole I.O.O.F. foundation wavered, as during the twenty-first annual session of Grand Lodge of Vermont held in Manchester August 28, 1867 "a majority of those present were in favor of a surrender of the charter and the dissolution of the Grand Lodge"; state order having asserted itself, a new group, Factory Point Lodge #35 organized; successor to this lodge was Hope Lodge #50, which in November 1905 bought a house and two lots at the Depot in order to erect its own hall; other branches of Hope Lodge are Bear Mountain Encampment #29 and Excelsior Rebekah Lodge, which celebrated its fifty-sixth anniversary March 1950; Ladies' Encampment Auxiliary #2 to the Bear Mountain Encampment was formed in Manchester December 5, 1953, the second such auxiliary in Vermont; outstanding in Odd Fellows work both in



Manchester and in Vermont was Lester H. Thompson (1888–1948), who served as Grand Patriarch, Grand Representative, and Lt. Col. in the Department of Vermont, Patriarchs Militant, and who was also owner-publisher of a state-wide monthly newspaper, *The Vermont Odd Fellow* (1937–1948), which was sponsored by all three branches of the Grand Lodge.

BATTENKILL VALLEY GRANGE, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY Existed in the early 1900s and met about 1905 in the Odd Fellows Hall; Worthy Master in its earliest years was Dr. John F. Page, Manchester veterinarian.

MT. EQUINOX GRANGE NO. 494 Organized June 14, 1930 at Odd Fellows Hall, Manchester Depot, with forty-three charter members, nineteen of whom are still in the organization; this is a fraternal group desirous of promoting better agriculture, better education and community life, and higher ideals of manhood and citizenship; first officers were Benjamin Hill, Earl Taylor, Viola Wilcox, Stannard Wilcox, Julius J. Hill, Mrs. Ernest Goyette, Mildred Taylor, Mrs. Jerome Hill, Mrs. S. J. Randall, Delia Wilcox, Ethel Gilmore, Clyde Bryant, and Jesse Hard; first meeting in Grange Hall, December 1, 1936; group has juvenile Grange program also.

MASONIC ORDERS The earliest and most historic Masonic group was NORTH STAR LODGE #2, which actively existed from the date of its charter, January 20, 1785, until about August 23, 1810, the date of its last formal meeting. Though technically referred to as the second lodge formed in Vermont, it had the honor of being the first Masonic body to hold meetings on true Vermont ground. (Because of the New Hampshire-New York boundary disputes, Vermont somewhat unwillingly annexed a small strip of New York and a wider one of New Hampshire, and thus it was that the first Vermont Masonic lodge had its meetings in Charlestown, New Hampshire.) Noah Smith, Worshipful Master of North Star (1792–1793), a Yale graduate and one of the first two licensed lawyers in Vermont, went to Massachusetts for the charter from St. Andrew's Grand Lodge. The first signature on the charter was that of Paul Revere. (It is also historically significant that both the North Star

and Vermont Lodge [1781] charters referred to the "State of Vermont" though they were issued several years before Vermont was admitted to the Union. This is proof that Vermont's claim to recognition as a separate state—as established by the 1777 Declaration of Independence—was apparently recognized by Massachusetts in 1781 and 1785 despite the fact that rival claims of New York and New Hampshire had kept and would keep Vermont from obtaining recognition from the federal government for several more years.)

North Star Lodge met at the home of Stephen Keys in Manchester and later at the tavern of Brother Allis, who furnished "Rum at 2-9 per bottle or quart and wine at 2-9 per bottle for what is drank in the chamber and what attendance is necessary with fire wood and candles for the use of the Lodge." The lodge was represented in the first "Convention forming a Grand Lodge for the State of Vermont" at Manchester August 6, 1794 by Nathan Brownson, who was also chosen chairman. Organization of the Grand Lodge was completed in Rutland October 10, 1794 with Noah Smith as first Grand Master. Tillotson, Vermont's Masonic historian, says that Smith lived in Bennington, but Judge Pettibone said that Smith "lived on a lot north of the Seminary lot. He belonged to the Masonic Society and set up an independent lodge which was called Smith's Lodge. Some members . . . afterwards joined the regular lodge which was called the North Star and I heard some say Smith's lodge was the more orderly of the two." Whatever this may mean, Smith was a notable pioneer in Vermont Masonry, as were many members of the North Star Lodge. The group was suspended in 1812 and declared "extinct" in 1814.

ADONIRAM LODGE # 46 of Dorset was chartered October 7, 1818 and its Manchester members were S. Purdy, M. Roberts, C. Roberts, and L. Dean. In 1820 this lodge was given permission to move to Manchester "not to be south of the residence of Christopher Roberts," which restriction was removed five years later. The group was suspended in 1831 by the Grand Lodge at the beginning of the anti-Masonic period.

ADONIRAM LODGE # 42, F. & A.M., the present fraternal order in Manchester, was chartered January 14, 1858 with twenty-four charter members. Its first officers were Leonard Sargeant, Fowler W. Hoyt, and Harvey K. Fowler.

ADONIRAM CHAPTER # 18, R.A.M., was chartered October 2, 1867 with forty-nine members. The first officers were E. G. Tuttle, J. E. McNaughton, and G. W. Bennett.

ADONIRAM CHAPTER # 22, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR was formed December 4, 1885 in the Masonic rooms at Manchester Center in the Opera House. First officers were Harriet C. Young, D. K. Simonds, and Helen M. Blackmer. Membership has risen from thirty-one members to 150. Associated with the local Masonic order are the Taconic Chapter, Order of De Molay, and a chapter of Rainbow Girls.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION Began in Manchester December 14, 1932, when four units were formed in the elementary schools of the community; first presidents were Mrs. Gladys Besselievre, Village; Mrs. Helen Bigelow, Center; Mrs. Ethel Bennett, Depot; Mrs. Theodore Kilburn, East Manchester; following an eighteen-year existence and the construction of the new consolidated school at Manchester Center, the P.T.A. groups united May 10, 1950 and now number about 316 members; state convention of P.T.A. held in Manchester, 1937; local members have often been on state board; an effective force of parents and teachers for the good of all Manchester school children, the group has been responsible for dental clinics, hot lunches, school band, pre-school examination and immunization, eyeglasses for the needy, adult education, receptions for veteran teachers and administrators, beginnings of school library, donation of playground equipment, sponsorship of eighth grade graduation, etc.

SHAKESPEARE CLUB A ladies' literary organization which numbered some fourteen members. It existed in the 1890s.

TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB Organized May 15, 1899 by Miss Julia F. Hawley, who was president until her death in November 1901; its purpose was the "study of Art, Belles-Lettres, and Ancient and Modern Social Customs and Functions"; other first officers were Hermione Canfield and Sarah N. Cleghorn; meeting in summer only, the group held a great number of sessions, which were attended by Villagers, "Cottagers," and hotel guests; attendance



sometimes exceeded 100 at a single meeting; in 1921 membership became limited to thirty-five; dues in later years used for "Julia Frances Hawley Scholarship" at Burr and Burton Seminary; at a 1912 meeting "Mrs. Fisher, who was in close touch with Dr. Montessori in Rome last winter, read three or four chapters from her forthcoming book on the Montessori method of education for little children"; club became defunct in 1932.

**CECILIAN OR CAECILIAN CLUB** An exclusive women's musical group in existence from 1896 until at least 1906 "for profit and pleasure. To keep an interest in music, to keep in touch with the musical world, and to incite practice"; first officers, Mrs. Orvis, Mrs. Botsford, Mrs. Robbins, and Mrs. Bennett.

**MONDAY CLUB** Organized 1895, the idea first being discussed at the home of Mrs. E. C. Orvis upon the suggestion of Marcia Snyder, Burr and Burton Seminary teacher; Miss Snyder, her sister Frances, Mrs. Orvis, and Mrs. Loveland Munson each chose three to join them as charter members—Julia F. Hawley, Jessie O. Hawley, Fanny S. Strong, Wilhelmina D. Hawley, Ellen C. Simonds, Angie Botsford, Maria Hemenway, and Mary Utley Robbins; first meeting in Miss Snyder's room at the Seminary; club has never had dues or regular officers; meets fortnightly, limiting itself to sixteen members; now in its sixty-sixth year, its afternoon programs begin at 3:00 p.m. with dessert followed by readings, reviews, and discussion on many topics such as "The Democratic Measures of the Gladstone Administration," various schools of art, "The Peasant Revolt of 1377," and lives of White House families.

**MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHORUS** Organized in 1930 and made its first public appearance December 1931; numbered some thirty singers; chorus gave annual Christmas and spring concerts until 1942, when it disbanded because its director, Ralph Howes, Burr and Burton Seminary headmaster, left Manchester.

**VILLAGE CHORUS** Organized and incorporated December 8, 1952 by some thirty members to perform and encourage choral music of a high degree; directed by Theodore Cook; among its first

officers were Thyra Stannard, Ruth Putnam, Paul Totschinder, Janet Wall, Alison Boright, and Margaret Meachem; following its first public appearance, December 6, 1953, chorus participated in Christmas and spring concerts, sacred vespers, and at the Southern Vermont Art Center; also appeared on television and in services at the Cathedral in the Pines, Rindge, New Hampshire; the group disbanded in 1958.

**GARDEN CLUB OF MANCHESTER** The earliest group was organized about 1905 by a small group of women studying the planting of flowers, shrubs, and trees and first came into prominence in 1913, when it offered prizes for best locally grown flowers at the Manchester Fair; a second Garden Club was organized June 10, 1920 with Miss Alice B. Fox, president; until 1941 held annual flower shows in the Burr and Burton Seminary gymnasium which drew as many as 2,000 visitors and at the Equinox House, where the 1937 show was opened by Governor Aiken; 1951 show held at Southern Vermont Art Center; since 1935 group has sponsored an all-day inspection tour of "Open Gardens"; other projects have been the landscaping of Manchester Elementary School grounds; front slope grading of bandstand area; planting and care of Munson's Corner triangle, Depot, and Center parks, and the Village green; ragweed eradication; work with Mount Laurel School children to stimulate interest in gardens, birds, and trees.

**4-H CLUBS OF MANCHESTER** About 1917 Marion Hardy and Barbara Hunt were the first two leaders in Bennington County, which was the first county to have a paid worker; "Battenkill Valley Club" organized first in Manchester in 1922 by I. N. Bartlett under Boys and Girls Clubs program of the state; by 1925 there were also the "Green Mountains Club," "Lye Brook Club," and "Hillside Workers Club," all given a new building in 1926 at the Manchester Fair; Camp Ondawa on the Battenkill in Sunderland established in 1923 as county 4-H camp; central building constructed in 1932 as result of much financial help from Manchester; the will of Mrs. Richard L. Makin stipulated that interest from her \$1,000 gift be used in assisting clubs in sending children to camp and by careful management, fund has reached \$1,500; in 1939 new building at

Ondawa named "Bartlett Hall" in honor of I. N. Bartlett, who in 1946 received diamond 4-H pin in recognition of having led a club for over twenty years; in 1958 \$1,000 was given by the Manchester Lions Club for erection of a crafts building; 250 4-H clubbers met at Burr and Burton Seminary in 1936 for Bennington County 4-H Round-Up and in 1937 Bartlett was president of the Bennington County 4-H Leaders Association; other early Manchester leaders were Mrs. Fred Wyman, Margaret Gillis, and Jessie Farnum.

**HOME DEMONSTRATION GROUPS** Were first organized in Bennington County under the state program in 1935; earliest groups in Manchester came shortly afterward with one in East Manchester that became defunct in 1941 and one in the Village, of which Mrs. Albert Smith and Mrs. Orrin Boynton were members; present groups are the Mt. Equinox Club, organized in 1945 largely through efforts of Mrs. Helen Pearson and Mrs. Albanese Hubbard (Penn), and the Maple Leaf Club originally organized in Sunderland February 1953; as most of the members were Manchester women, the name was changed from the "Sunderland Home Demonstration Group" February 13, 1956; first officers were Barbara Hill, Millicent Lawrence, Norma Dondero, and Betty Rowden.

**CAMERA CLUB** Existed in early 1900 for those in Manchester with a hobby of photography; meetings sometimes drew as many as fifty members and guests; George L. Towsley, president.

**STAMP CLUB** Organized in February 1939 with monthly meetings for those interested in stamp collecting; first officers were George H. Sheldon, Robert C. Brewster, Helen Bigelow, and Earle E. Storrs.

**COLONIAL SOCIETY** Existed winters from 1929 until 1931; composed of women interested in working out designs in hooked or braided rugs and patterns for quilts and comforters; **JOLLY RUG CLUB** succeeded this group in 1932, located at Manchester Depot.

**FRIDAY CLUB** A Manchester Depot group which met between 1917 and 1925 for monthly suppers, card-playing, and civic socia-



bility; in 1918 club gave a service flag which was raised at Depot park with ceremonies at which Claude Rich was speaker; the 500 CLUB and the MANCHESTER CARD CLUB were only two of the many other card-playing organizations to exist in Manchester through the years.

MANCHESTER BRANCH, ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS   Organized  
in the summer of 1950.



## CHAPTER XXVI

# The Manchester Band

THE Manchester Band as a tradition is not yet completely abandoned. In November 1959 Harry L. Adams, band member for fifty-seven years and still its treasurer, deposited a sum in that organization's account from the sale of one of its big instruments. Thus, in a sense, the Manchester Band is still doing business. Unfortunately, however, as a musical group which for some 116 years offered pleasure to its fellow citizens, the Manchester Band is only a bright, beloved memory.

Manchester's earliest band, as near as can be ascertained, existed about 1845. Little is known of its personnel—"Eli Hunter, ? Hunter, George Baldwin, bugler, and Dewey Barton, snare drummer, all of Dorset; Frank Johnson, French horn player from South Dorset; Orlando, a 'one-eyed bass drummer' from Sunderland; George W. Smith, George Straight, and Milo Wait, bugler, from Manchester."

The first "official" band organization was the uniformed Manchester Band in 1861 led by cornetist Russel P. Hoyt, who has been described as "skillful, accomplished, and every inch a gentleman." Photographs still exist of this band on the Village green by the Congregational church. Playing in it were: Charles Sheldon, drum boy; Isaac Burton, bass drum; Silas Millett, snare drum; Henry Way, tenor; Loveland Munson, baritone; Josiah Munson, driver; Abe Straight, bass; Harrison Harrington; William Black; James Black, alto; George Burton; Joseph Leonard (or Lenard); Theodore Swift; George Swift; Douglas Dyer; Daniel Bennett, tenor; and Augustus Munson.

Hoyt advertised his band weekly in the *Manchester Journal*—"Manchester Cornet Band Is Prepared to furnish Music for Celebrations, Picnics, Parades, etc. All orders promptly attended to." Members of the band had new uniforms for the town's 1861 Fourth of July celebration when, according to the *Journal*, they "marched through this beautiful village and played exquisitely."

During the early part of the Civil War, the band played patriotic music every evening and frequently at rallies to enlist troops. One night it serenaded the Hon. Ahiman L. Miner, Village lawyer, playing "The Star Spangled Banner." He responded by giving the origin of that song and began to sing it. The band helped him and nearly everyone joined in. Later, Andrus L. Bowen, *Journal* columnist, wrote, "Since that time, I have heard that song . . . many a time, but never did it stir me as then."

In 1862 the band was asked to accompany the Fourteenth Regiment, Vermont Volunteers, as far as New York City, and by 1863 many of its own members were in the service of the Union. Public support kept the band alive until November of that year when it was finally forced to disband.

A third Manchester band existed between 1879 and 1881 in the Village and practiced in the hall over Perkins store. Members of this group were: Thomas Hoyt, Theodore Swift, George Swift, George Burton, John H. Whipple, and Herbert Mattison, cornets; James Black, Del Haskins, Henry Allen, and Clement Cone, altos; George Smith and O. G. Felt, trombones; Willard Bennett, William Black, basses; Hiram Eggleston, baritone; Frank Wilson, B-flat bass; Fred Bentley, snare drum; Thomas Lugene and Emerson Estabrook, bass drum.

About this time the "Factory Point Cornet Band" was organized at the Center, practicing in the old schoolhouse. Among its members were Charles Spring, leader, Emerson Estabrook, W. H. Bundy, Gus Wyman, H. Hicks, Robert Lyman, and William Benedict. Another band existed in the 1890s which included: Harry Adams, Herbert Coleman, Jim Bentley, and Will Sessions. There was also the Manchester Depot Drum Corps, members of which were: Waldo Williams, William Hicks, Clarence Curtis, James Bourne, Watson Curtis, Ned Pettibone, Heman Dyer, and Myron Pettibone. Both groups were short-lived.



The turn of the century brought an upsurge of interest in organizing a really permanent Manchester band. Largely through the efforts of Clarence Sykes, the Manchester Union Band formed July 29, 1904 at Manchester Depot. It had the longest existence of any Manchester band. Local citizens gave their blessing by a town meeting vote of \$100 for open air concerts in the three villages.

Making its first appearance Election Night, 1904, the Union Band was composed of George A. Woods, leader and solo cornet; Harry L. Adams, lieutenant, secretary-treasurer, and solo alto; C. A. Bourn, president and snare drummer; H. S. King and F. D. Street-er, solo cornets; L. C. Davis, first cornet; F. E. Brewster, cornet; L. F. Farnum, solo clarinet; David L. Bulkley, piccolo; L. E. Pierce, baritone; W. C. Stevens, second alto; William Woods, third alto; Clarence Sykes, first trombone; Harold E. Taylor, second trombone; F. H. Briggs, third trombone; C. W. Sykes, B. W. Davis, basses; R. L. Anderson, bass drum. Will Barrington-Sargent, who later directed the Old Colony Band of Boston, was the Manchester Band's first teacher.

Other instructors have been: George C. Woods, once with the Madison Square Garden Theater; Don Whitcomb, cornetist; Dr. James Lovejoy, Manchester physician who later played in the Plainfield (New Jersey) Symphony Orchestra; Herbert S. King and Wren Whitman, Detroit cornetist and trombonist; Frank Hurley, Bennington trombonist; Smith Jameson, the "old Army drummer"; and Napoleon Ianni, Rutland trumpeter.

In 1905 the newly uniformed Union Band began to appear regularly at various town functions. It played the dirge at Memorial Day services in the churches and cemeteries, serenaded at socials, performed in concerts and parades, and journeyed for the first time that year to the Bondville Fair. In 1907 it rented Couture's Hall at Manchester Depot. Often the band appeared at firemen's musters both in Manchester and out of town.

The Manchester Band was again revived after World War I. The musicians wore dark uniforms for cold weather performances and white uniforms for the summer concerts in Dorset, in Manchester Center on the Colburn House porch, and at the Depot's Battenkill Inn. They also played regularly during those golden years in the Village. The band became a fixture at the Manchester Fair. It also

sponsored annual carnivals for its own support, played at church lawn parties, paraded on patriotic occasions, and gave formal concerts sponsored by summer residents.

The band was mostly self-supporting through the years, but in the winter of 1926 it was forced to ask the town for money. The leader, Dr. Lovejoy, had gone and the band sought a new one. "We have been corresponding with a capable director in Rutland who will direct the band for \$7.00 a week . . . a very reasonable rate." The band promised nine concerts, three in each village, in return for the appropriation. Manchester voted \$300, a sum it continued to vote until 1948, and the Manchester Band got its director. Napoleon Ianni still comes to Manchester weekly to give musical instruction, though now at the Elementary School.

In May 1929 the Manchester Band commissioned Herbert Smith, contractor, to build the hexagonal stone and concrete bandstand at the Center. Here evening concerts were played until 1951, when the Manchester Band and the school band joined ranks for the weekly affair and made too large a group for the little bandstand. Parking space, too, had become extremely limited and the safety of the audience was questioned. The site was moved to the corner of the new elementary school lot opposite the Grange Hall, where a shell was erected in August 1952.

In the early 1930s, the Manchester Band, which then numbered about thirty, held minstrel-type shows and novelty programs which were long anticipated, much enjoyed (standing room only!), and long remembered.

The musician serving longest as president of the band (1926, 1931, 1936–1942) and best exemplifying its spirit was Nathaniel ("Nat") Malcolm Canfield (June 4, 1867–November 9, 1942). Canfield, much loved in Manchester, prized his association with the older bandsmen, but was always ready to help the newer or younger members. He began playing in the Sunderland Band in 1888 and in a Manchester band some ten years later. In 1940 at the age of 73, Canfield was still, more often than not, walking the long distance from his home south of the Village to band practice. He delighted in every moment spent with the band members and they in turn relished his ready wit.

Harry Adams still chuckles over the trip they made to an engage-

ment in Wallingford in Paul Fowler's car. Late getting started, Fowler really put his foot on the gas. Nat Canfield rocked around in the back seat as long as he could. Then he tapped their driver on the shoulder. "If it's all the same to you, Paul," he said, "I'd rather be a little late in Wallingford than on time in hell."

Written into band records, too, is the notation that "twenty-two men played at the Bondville Fair Sept. 22, 1932 all sober. Nat Canfield says it's against the law to come home from Bondville in that condition."

In December 1941 Manchester first contemplated a juvenile or school band, and three years later the P.T.A. began earning money to sponsor such an organization. By 1945 the number of participants had increased so greatly that the band moved from its headquarters over the Center firehouse to the Grange Hall. Napoleon Ianni deserves the greatest share of credit for the type and quality of instruction given and the interest aroused among Manchester children.

Under his direction, the first indoor concert by the school band was May 23, 1945 in the Burr and Burton Seminary gymnasium. The first outdoor concert was June 14, 1945. In 1952 the Manchester School Band joined five other Ianni-directed school bands for a mass concert sponsored by the Manchester Rotary Club. These all-Ianni massed band concerts are performed annually.

In 1949 Manchester voted \$400 to defray part of the costs of additional uniforms for the school band, which had grown to forty-six concert members with ninety-four under instruction. In 1951 and 1952, \$275 was voted for uniforms, music, and equipment. This was increased to \$485 in 1954 and 1955. During these years the older Manchester Union Band continued to function on its own, one of its final appearances being at the Manchester Fair in 1948. It is little wonder, however, that its thinning ranks began to waver in the face of this avid group of younger musicians who were attending state music festivals, giving several annual concerts, and participating in parades all over the state.

In 1934, on the band's thirtieth birthday, only three of the original eighteen members were still active in the Union Band. In 1961 these men reminisced with pride—Harry L. Adams, who ended up playing a baritone horn instead of an alto; Harold E. Taylor,



who changed from trombone to cornet; and Rob L. Anderson, who was always the "hard-to-beat" bass drummer. Some of the oldest instruments are still in existence. Harold Taylor owned an old-fashioned E-flat alto horn which in the ancient photograph of the band of 1861 is held by Harrison Harrington, second man in the second row.

On summer evenings when the youngsters gather to give their concerts, townsfolk are strongly reminded that their band was once made of men, not boys. For there is Paul Fowler, last president of the Manchester Union Band and present assistant director of the school band, lending a supervisional hand when needed and some expert musical notes for old times' sake.



## CHAPTER XXVII

### “An Air of Rich and Cultured Living . . .”

#### § *The Writers*

**D**URING the 1920s an influential cultural group, the Poetry Society of Southern Vermont, flourished in this vicinity. Though meetings were not always held in Manchester, distinguished poets who read their work here included Amy Lowell, Vachel Lindsay, Carl Sandburg, Edwin Markham, Robert Frost, Arthur Guiterman, and Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Largely responsible for the increased interest in modern poets and their work was Jessie Rittenhouse, who resided in Manchester. She was editor of the *Little Book of Modern Poetry* and the *Second Book of Modern Poetry*. Madison C. Bates, headmaster of Burr and Burton Seminary, was president of the Poetry Society. He brought a “golden age” to the school and to Manchester. Later, he was awarded the Rutgers Medal for outstanding teaching at that university.

Manchester has been the home of several notable writers.

SARAH NORCLIFFE CLEGHORN (1876–1959) was probably Manchester’s most versatile author. Following her mother’s death in Wisconsin, she was raised in Manchester by her aunts, Jessie and Fanny Hawley. Valedictorian of Burr and Burton Seminary, class of 1895, Miss Cleghorn attended Radcliffe College and taught at the socialist labor schools, Brookwood and Manumit in Katonah and Pawling, New York. A pacifist, vegetarian, and anti-vivisectionist, she also fought to abolish the death penalty in Vermont. She was a founder of the Manchester chapter, S.P.C.A.

Despite passionate and sometimes eccentric devotion to these causes, Sarah Cleghorn was much admired in Manchester. The *Bennington Banner* once said "Miss Cleghorn's opinions never appeal to us, we think she is all off on most subjects, but never mind, we love her just the same."<sup>1</sup> Her writings reflected her views. She wrote some lyrical poetry, but the bulk of her verse, in ballad form, protested against racial prejudice, child labor, and war. Probably Sally Cleghorn's most quoted lines, originally sent to Franklin P. Adams' column in the *New York Herald Tribune*, are:

The golf links lie so near the mill  
That almost every day  
The laboring children can look out  
And watch the men, at play.

Miss Cleghorn published a volume of verse, *Portraits and Protests*; an autobiography, *Three Score*; two novels, *Turnpike Lady* and *The Spinster*; and a book of religious philosophy, *The Seamless Robe*. In collaboration with Dorothy Canfield Fisher, she wrote *Fellow Captains* and *Nothing Ever Happens*, a collection of true stories of Vermonters. After becoming a Quaker, Sarah Cleghorn lectured for the Friends Council on Education.

WALTER HARD (1882- ) is noted for his Vermont poetry and in Manchester for his active participation in the life of the community. The son of Jesse and Eliza Jane (Pennock) Hard, he belongs to the fifth generation of Hards in the Battenkill Valley. A graduate of Burr and Burton Seminary, class of 1900, he attended Williams College, where he was later awarded an honorary degree.

Walter Hard has represented Manchester in the Legislature two terms and has three times been elected State Senator. He has been an officer, director, or trustee of many organizations including Burr and Burton Seminary, Burr and Burton Seminary Alumni Association, Dellwood Cemetery, Manchester Historical Society, Mark Skinner Library, Factory Point National Bank, the Village of Manchester, and Southern Vermont Artists, Inc. He has been a member of the Vermont League of Writers and the Vermont Historical Society.

1. Charles Edward Crane, *Let Me Show You Vermont* (New York, 1937), p. 26.

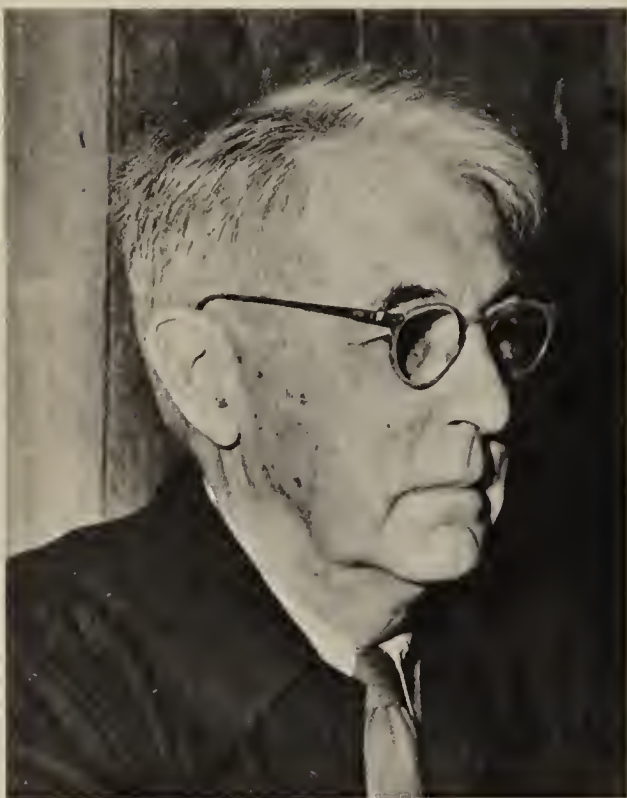




Southern Vermont Art Center acquired by S.V.A., Inc., in 1950. In idyllic surroundings on the side of Mount Equinox, this cultural center attracts nearly 10,000 visitors each summer.



Nathaniel ("Nat")  
Canfield (1867–1942),  
beloved Manchester  
musician and friend.



*Above, left:* Walter Hard, Manchester poet who has been ranked by Louis Untermeyer as one of the top thirty New England poets since 1776. *Above, right:* Sarah Norcliffe Cleghorn (1876–1959), Manchester writer whom Robert Frost has called “a saint, poet—and reformer.” *Left:* Albert Smith (1878–1958), Village photographer.



Hard's first book, *Some VermonTERS*, was published in 1928. He has written eight books of verse, all characterized by a nonrhyming irregular rhythm that he feels "fits in with the unexpected but never-broken lines of our Vermont landscape." Louis Untermeyer has ranked Walter Hard among the top thirty New England poets since 1776.

Most of his poems have appeared in his weekly newspaper columns—"Hard Lines and Old Times" in the *Rutland Herald* and since 1926, "Fouls and Base Hits" in the *Manchester Journal*. He has also written magazine articles and plays, one of which, *The Scarecrow*, has been produced by local summer theaters. He is author of *The Connecticut*, thirty-second in the Rivers of America series, and co-author, with his wife, of *This Is Vermont*. A contributing editor to *Vermont Life* magazine, Walter Hard writes the regular column, "Only Yesterday, A Remembrance of Vermont." His work appears in several anthologies.

MARGARET STEEL HARD, born in Manchester, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Steel, attended Pratt Institute High School, Brooklyn, New York, and the Ethical Culture School. She later taught at the Maria B. Chapin School. She married Walter Hard in 1912. Their children are Walter Rice Hard, Jr., editor of *Vermont Life* and author of *Vermont Guide*, and Ruth Hard Bonner, newspaper book reviewer who has worked in the publishing field and who was first proprietor of the Johnny Appleseed Bookshop, which her parents now operate.

Margaret Hard has published articles and poetry in many magazines. She is the author of *This Is Kate*, a novel which was accepted in 1948 for translation into French. She also wrote a story of Vermont, "Thimble Mountain," for a young people's series, *Children of the U.S.A.*, which is also published in Braille.

ELIZABETH PAGE (1889- ), whose home in Manchester Village has been in her family many generations, is the author of three historical novels. Miss Page was educated at the New York Collegiate Institute and Vassar College, class of 1912. She received a master's degree in history from Columbia University and later taught at the Walnut Hill School, Natick, Massachusetts.

Her first book, *Wagons West*, was published in 1930, followed by *Wild Horses and Gold* in 1932 and *Tree of Liberty* in 1939. The latter



was a best seller and a successful moving picture. *Wilderness Adventure* was published in 1946.

PHYLLIS FENNER, one of the nation's best-known authorities on children's books, now claims Manchester as her home. Born in Almond, New York, she was librarian in Manhasset, Long Island, public schools from 1923 to 1955. A book reviewer and author of many articles on library work, reading, and books, she is on the editorial board of Cadmus Books and the advisory board of *Children's Digest*.

Miss Fenner has written several books and edited many anthologies. Among them are *Our Library: The Story of a School Library That Works*; *The Proof of the Pudding: What Children Read*; and *Kick-Off*.

BERNIECE BEANE GRAHAM, Manchester teacher-writer, has written a weekly column in the *Manchester Journal* since 1938 and has been book review editor for that newspaper and the *Bennington Banner*. She has published articles in *The Vermonter* magazine and poetry in various publications. In 1939 her work appeared in a major anthology. A member of the League of Vermont Writers, Mrs. Graham has been on the staff of *Yankee* magazine and has been poetry editor of the magazine *Driftwood*.

THE REV. CARROLL SIMCOX, Episcopal rector, completed a trilogy of religious philosophy during his five-year Manchester pastorate, *Living the Creed*, *Living the Lord's Prayer*, and *Living the Ten Commandments*. He has also written several other books.

DR. RICHARD C. OVERTON, teacher, writer, and railroad consultant, has written *The First Ninety Years* (1940), *Burlington West* (1941), "Westward Expansion since the Homestead Act" in *Growth of the American Economy* (1944), *Milepost 100* (1949), and *Gulf to Rockies* (1953). He has also had many articles published in history and railroad magazines.

### § *The Musicians*

DANIEL PEABODY in 1838 advertised a twenty-four lesson course in the "Science of Sacred Music" by the "Pestilozian System" Saturday nights "in the schoolhouse near the Episcopal Church at Factory Point" for \$1. These were probably the town's first music

lessons. Since then, musical instruction has been given by a score of teachers.

The first orchestral music was undoubtedly played at the Equinox House, where the “Parlor Orchestra” was conducted for many years during the middle nineteenth century by Professor Farber. He was succeeded about 1900 by a cellist, Franz Lorenz, who was very popular in the community and did much to give Manchester an interest in orchestral music. With his brother, Ernst, and his pianist daughter, Yolanda, he often gave concerts at Burr and Burton Seminary.

Probably Manchester’s best-known entertainers were the celebrated Hoyt sisters, Frances and Grace, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Russel P. Hoyt. Talented and pretty, the sisters sang at all the Village socials. In 1907 they studied in Paris under De Reszke and entertained in London under royal patronage. Frances had a repertoire of monologues which she presented in costume in society drawing rooms and on the public stage. These were later published under the title *Mis’ Stone*. Critics called her “a rare artist.”

The sisters toured the United States and Canada in 1909 with Sousa’s band, and during World War I joined General L. C. Edwards’ Yankee Division as entertainers. The Hoyts also taught violin and piano in New York schools and in Manchester, summers. Frances died December 29, 1935, aged sixty-seven. Grace Hoyt continued to give readings locally until about 1940. She died October 18, 1950, aged seventy-nine.

Most early concerts were held in the Village Music Hall or at the Factory Point Opera House. In 1925 Manchester’s first concert series “by artists of international reputation” was held in the Seminary gymnasium. During the 1930s, concerts were given at the Equinox House Pavilion. Manchester’s first symphony concert was given out of doors at the Fair Grounds in 1938 by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, then in its fourth year. Henry B. Robinson, cellist, was Manchester’s first resident to join the group. In 1941 benefit concerts were given at summer homes, and in 1945 townspeople as well as hotel guests were invited to informal Sunday evening concerts given by the Equinox House orchestra.

Since the development of the Southern Vermont Art Center in 1950, most of Manchester’s major musical events have been spon-

sored by the Southern Vermont Artists, Inc., in the "Musical Arts Series." The modest beginnings were four small concerts in an outdoor amphitheater. In 1956 Mrs. Bartlett Arkell and Dean Fausett were principal fund raisers in a drive to construct a pavilion. In 1959 "Madama Butterfly," the Art Center's first full-scale opera, was presented. The Art Center has also sponsored a chorus and ballet school. Two musicians, part-time Manchester residents who appear regularly at the Art Center, are pianist Eugene List and his wife, Carroll Glenn, violinist. Choreographer-dancer Joyce Hurley of Manchester has also appeared at the Art Center, directing her own school of dance in several successful programs.

### § *The Artists*

PROBABLY the first notable painter of Manchester scenery was W. C. Boutelle, who came here summers in the middle nineteenth century. *Mount Dorset* was exhibited at the National Academy of Design in New York in 1871. Another of his large paintings of the valley occupied "a place of honor in the parlors of the Equinox House." Another early painter of the local scene was Walter Shirlaw, noted New Yorker who spent summers here sketching.

Zephine Humphrey in *Story of Dorset* says the earliest exhibit in this area was the work of "the mountains painter of Dorset," John Lillie. It was sponsored in 1923 by hotel patrons on the lawn of the Equinox House. Twenty-four pictures were sold that day. Another art exhibit was held at the Equinox House Pavilion in late August 1924 by Frank C. Vanderhoof and Francis S. Dixon. There were also paintings by Lillie, Mary S. Powers, Herbert Meyer, Wallace Fahnestock, and Edwin B. Child. Another one-day exhibit was held in 1925.

In August 1926 a number of Bennington and Rutland people motored to Manchester to see another Lillie exhibit, again at the Pavilion. Early in September, a larger exhibit showed photographic work, hooked rugs, sculpture, and a piece of illuminated text. New artists appearing were H. E. Schnakenberg, Horace Brown, and Della Shull.

The artists shared a common interest—

a fascination for the lushness of the Green Mountain landscape, for the



peace and serenity of Vermont life, for the texture of weathered barn wood and covered bridges, and for the distinctive character of each Vermonter rooted for generations in his land. Each painter, according to his fashion, recreated on canvas those aspects of Vermont which moved him. . . .<sup>2</sup>

In 1927 Michel Jacobs, director of the Metropolitan Art School, New York City, ran a summer art school in East Manchester. That year the “Fourth Annual Exhibition of Artists of Southern Vermont” was held at the Pavilion with 1,600 spectators from thirty-three states and nine countries. Most of the executive work of this exhibit and others until 1934 was handled by Mary S. Powers. In the 1928 exhibit, artists of established reputation shared hanging space with those of lesser experience and fame. There were 150 entries, some the work of children under sixteen.

The press, from the beginning, gave excellent reviews of the Manchester exhibits. Royal Cortissoz, distinguished author-art critic of the *New York Herald Tribune* and a frequent summer visitor to Manchester, suggested that the great success of the exhibits might be due to “something in the air up here, something of stimulus in beauty of scene . . . favorable to the heightening of artistic activity.”

Art critic Edward Alden Jewell wrote:

All Manchester is on tiptoe with excitement; the surrounding countryside as well. For Art has taken hold in Vermont. You realize, in fact, without being told the moment you enter the gallery that this is a Vermont show; for in picture after picture the valleys and hills of the beautiful State reappear, transformed, it is true, by individual imagination, but in spirit immediately recognizable.<sup>3</sup>

The exhibit at Manchester is superlatively American . . . in that it reflects the American temperament and scene at first hand and . . . embodies so much of our rich diversity of taste. Here is Carl Ruggles, a young modern composer; and he paints . . . music because it is the thing he knows best. Here is the remarkable John Lillie, a true primitive, who, self-taught and self-communing, paints . . . the mountains . . . among

2. S. J. Conti, “A Brief Look at the Southern Vermont Art Center,” *Manchester Journal*, July 21, 1960.

3. *The New York Times*, September 2, 1928.

which he has lived since boyhood. Here is W. W. Fahnestock, breathing poetry and light . . . and at home with singing greens. . . .<sup>4</sup>

The *Rutland Herald* was also appreciative:

Manchester-in-the-Mountains may never take its place in the sun as the center of a world famous art colony or the home of an annual art show of international importance but it is bound to receive recognition for the work which has already been done and which is planned for the future of art.<sup>5</sup>

The annual exhibits proved to be a source of invaluable publicity for the state as well as an educational and cultural advantage. The *Manchester Journal* said, "No feature of Vermont life, either political or social, has been awarded so much space in metropolitan papers."

David L. Bulkley, Manchester photographer, was appointed shipping and receiving agent for the annual shows. His packing and sending of oil paintings and sculpture was an art in itself and a great service for many years to the southern Vermont artists.

Robert McIntyre was especially notable in encouraging the early exhibits. His ownership of the Macbeth Gallery in New York City made him an important connection for the Manchester artists.

The New Collectors Gallery, where small paintings by well-known artists could be purchased at low prices, first appeared in 1933. This was also the year that the Southern Vermont Artists incorporated, eleven members signing the articles of association: Mrs. George Orvis, Bartlett Arkell, Walter Hard, H. E. Schnakenberg, Lincoln Isham, Harlan Miller, Luther R. Graves, 2nd, William H. Roberts, Ernest H. West, Edward F. Rochester, and Edward Griffith.

The principal purposes of S.V.A. were given as follows:

"To promote education in art exclusively, and for that purpose to hold and conduct exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, and other objects of art, and especially to promote the study of art in all of its branches by the young people of Vermont." SVA was set up as a non-profit organization dependent upon public support to carry out its objectives. From its in-

4. *The New York Times*, September 6, 1929.

5. *Manchester Journal*, December 27, 1928.

ception, the group set down only one basic requirement for exhibition—that of residence. An artist must have lived within a fifty mile radius of Manchester for at least three months out of each year to qualify for inclusion. . . . All paintings entered were submitted to a jury selected from among the established members of the group.

A feature of the SVA annual show, which became known as the “Manchester Idea” was that any artist who had satisfied the residence requirement could enter four paintings in the show with the guarantee that at least one . . . would gain acceptance. The “Manchester Idea” is rooted in the essence of democracy and it insured the growth of the Southern Vermont Artists.<sup>6</sup>

From 1934 to 1950 the annual exhibitions were held in the Burr and Burton Seminary gymnasium. Among the new exhibitors in the early 1930s were Reginald Marsh, whose paintings, engravings, and etchings have been exhibited in many museums and belong to important permanent collections; Henrik Willem Van Loon; and the three young daughters of Chinese philosopher Lin Yutang. No prizes were given nor was there a charge for admission or catalogues. All operating expenses of the show were paid from modest commissions charged on paintings sold.

Because of the war, the 1941 and 1942 exhibits were small and the 1943 through 1945 exhibits were cancelled. Among the new exhibitors were Leale Towsley, Hilda Belcher, Paul Sample, Anne and Felicia Meyer, Bernadine Custer, Clay Bartlett, Theodore Hussa, Harriette de Sanchez, Francis Colburn, John Koch, Dean Fausett, and Arthur K. D. Healy. David Humphreys and his wife, Beatrice Jackson, also painters of the American School, began to receive wide recognition in the country.

“Friends of the Southern Vermont Artists” organized at the suggestion of Walter Hard to lend financial assistance and assume responsibility for hanging the show. This group provided a permanence and continuity for the annual exhibits. One of its first contributions was a new type of floodlighting designed to increase the vitality and quality of the total effect. Mrs. Bartlett Arkell continued to be a leader in this group.

In 1949 the twentieth annual exhibit was celebrated with an anniversary jamboree on the Seminary athletic field. Grandma Moses,

6. S. J. Conti, “A Brief Look . . . .”



guest of honor as she was again in 1960, was one of 220 artists showing 424 paintings. Sales totaled nearly \$13,000 and over 7,000 visitors attended. Edith Dulles Snare supervised this and several later exhibits. The paintings of Ogden Pleissner, Luigi Lucioni, and Robert Strong Woodward were voted the most popular, in that order.

The first S.V.A. "Traveling Show" opened in Detroit in 1949 to acquaint the country through leading galleries and dealers with the organization's work. Other cities on the winter-spring itinerary were St. Louis, Dallas, Salt Lake City, and Chicago.

The idea of a permanent gallery and cultural center for Manchester was long considered. Instrumental in promoting the idea were Herbert Meyer and Dean Fausett. Meyer, a member of the National Academy, had exhibited all over the country, and Fausett was a prize winner who had works in permanent collections of many leading museums. In the summer of 1950, S.V.A., Inc., bought the Gertrude Divine Webster estate, 300 acres of forest and meadow on the side of Mount Equinox. A committee headed by Fausett "and including Mrs. Bartlett Arkell, James F. Ashley, and Richard M. Ketchum, set about to raise funds. A long list of supporters headed by George Merck, Gerard B. Lambert, and Mrs. W. S. Barstow, contributed enough to purchase the property, to renovate it, and to operate it for an entire season."<sup>7</sup>

The house with more than twenty well-proportioned rooms was ideal for a gallery. A natural outdoor amphitheater seemed excellent, too, for the four concerts quickly scheduled for that first season. Stell Anderson, pianist, was the first performer. In 1951 a full program composed the Art Center's first season. It included a memorial exhibit of work done by late distinguished southern Vermont artists: John Lillie, Horace Brown, Edwin Child, Lorenzo Hatch, Walter Shirlaw, Frank Osborn, Jean Blin, and Louise Martin.

Osborn, noted for his imaginative and decorative groups of horses, invented a revolutionary airbrush technique, a new type of canvas stretcher, and an improved painting easel. Edwin B. Child won distinction for portraiture. His was the first one-man show at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. (1930). Lorenzo

7. S. J. Conti, "A Brief Look . . ."

Hatch, landscape and portrait painter, was one of the best bank-note engravers in the country.

The Art Center, within the next two years, added a concert series, photography, flower and craftsmen's shows; evening art courses; film festivals; penny prints shows; instructors' shows; and instruction in oil and watercolor painting, rug hooking, and ceramics. To stimulate interest, pictures were hung in the main lobby and classrooms of the Manchester Elementary School. Jay Connaway, who has his own art school in North Rupert, gave weekly instruction to upper grades. He has also offered weekly lectures and criticism at the Art Center. A member of the National Academy, Connaway now gives time to teach Mount Laurel School children.

The Southern Vermont Art Center has a permanent collection and has continuous exhibitions from mid-June through mid-October. The artists number about 500, and public attendance each summer has been close to 10,000. Average gallery sales are \$20,000 each season.

A number of the artists are or have been residents of Dorset and Arlington—Marsh, Fahnstock, the Meyers, Elsa Bley, Fausett, James Ashley, Charles Cagle, Harriette Miller, Lee Ehrich. Hazel Kitts Wires from Peru holds art classes in Manchester. Most closely associated with Manchester itself are Lucioni, Dorothy and Lawrence McCoy, and Leonebel Jacobs.

Luigi Lucioni, who has spent much of his time here since 1929, might be called “painter laureate” of Vermont. An able interpreter of the regional landscape, Lucioni has also done etchings, portraits, and still life painting. He came to America from Italy when he was ten and has attended Cooper Union, the National Academy of Design, and the Art Students League.

Described as a man who “keeps his temperament and his imagination well in bounds both in his life and on his canvas,”<sup>8</sup> Lucioni paints very slowly. His popularity and small output, therefore, make a ready market. On several occasions he has been awarded the popular prize at the Corcoran Art Gallery, Washington, D. C. His portrait of Ethel Waters received a similar award at the Carnegie

8. *Current Biography*, October, 1943.

Institute and in 1947 he received \$1,000 in the Second National Print Exhibition in New York.

Lawrence and Dorothy McCoy have been members of the Sarasota, Florida, Art Association as well as the Southern Vermont Artists. An exhibitor and award winner in many eastern art shows, McCoy won the best portrait prize in the 1951 Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts exhibit and the Ruth V. Ross award at the 55th Annual National Arts Club exhibition, New York City. His portrait of Dr. Claude M. Campbell hangs in the Manchester Elementary School. Mrs. McCoy, prize winner in the Berkshire Art Show, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, has shown her work in many exhibits and one-man shows.

Leonebel Jacobs has had one-man shows of her portraiture in Paris, Pekin, Boston, New York, and at the Southern Vermont Art Center. A member of the National Association of Woman Painters and Sculptors, she has painted many distinguished people, and her book containing portraits of well-known authors was published in 1937.

A second Manchester gallery in which artists from all over the state could exhibit existed between 1940 and 1945 in the old Methodist church at Manchester Center. The Vermont Artists Guild, Inc., Art Gallery officially opened November 25, 1940 and was operated daily on a nonprofit basis. Among artists affiliated with it were Theodore Hussa, Ella Fillmore Lillie, Claude Dern, and John Lillie. In the summer of 1944 the gallery was taken over by Cecil V. Grant of Londonderry as the "Manchester Art Gallery." Grant was the landscape painter who sold over 1,500 pictures of the Vermont scene, which he perennially exhibited on the Village green.

Vinnie Ream, sculptress, once resided in the Village. Her full-length statue of Abraham Lincoln is in the Capitol rotunda in Washington and her marble *Sappho* is in the National Gallery.

Albert Smith (July 7, 1878–February 11, 1958), Village photographer, will be remembered by his excellent woodland photographs, many of which were made into postcards. These did much in the early part of the century to advertise the Manchester scene.

Hans Thorner, a resident since 1948, is a noted moving picture producer, especially of ski films.



Clara Sipprell, eminent portrait photographer, uses no artificial lighting or retouching in an effort to acquire the most perfect naturalness in her pictures. By 1937 she had twice won the gold medal of the International Salon of Photographic Arts and Crafts. Among her subjects have been Albert Schweitzer, Robinson Jeffers, Albert Einstein, Felix Frankfurter, Emil Ludwig, and members of the Swedish royal family. In Manchester she has had exhibitions at the Equinox House.

A vital part of the local cultural scene are the Dorset Players, Inc., and the Caravan Theater, both having headquarters at the Dorset Playhouse. The former group is composed of people in the area interested in theater work. It leases the Playhouse during the summer and fall to the Caravan Theater, which was originated by Fred Carmichael and his wife, Patricia Wyn Rose. In 1961 it will be in its thirteenth summer season. The “Fall Color Season” was inaugurated in 1954.



## CHAPTER XXVIII

# Some Prominent Men and Women of Manchester

### § *Among the Proprietors*

#### MARTIN POWEL

ONE of the most important men of Manchester's early years was Martin Powel. Seldom does one come across a person who occupied such a prominent place in a community's life as Powel did through public office. Yet descriptions of the man's character and personality do not seem to be available in contemporary records.

Judge Munson mentions that Powel's activities as commissioner of sequestration when he seized and sold Tory properties were characterized by excellent judgment and perfect integrity. Chapin's pamphlet history mentions Powel as lieutenant and innkeeper, but spells the name with two "l's." The name is also misspelled on the Soldiers' Monument in the Village. Powel's own signature was always with the single "l."

Martin Powel was born in Amenia, New York, in 1731 and was one of the Manchester Proprietors. According to D.A.R. records, he was a lieutenant in the Continental Army. Military payrolls reveal that on three separate occasions he served for a few days with Seth Warner's regiment in forays from Manchester against Tories or against the British. Cambridge, Vermont, land records indicate that Powel, along with Gideon Ormsby, was one of the original grantees of that town.

As a Proprietor, he was elected clerk of the group June 20, 1777. His last service in that capacity was at a Manchester meeting June 22, 1795. He was frequently chosen to serve on committees for setting out lots. In October 1774 he was a member of a committee to ascertain the boundaries of the town. Proprietors' meetings as well as town meetings were often held at his house. He is said to have been keeper of William Marsh's tavern, which stood on the present site of the south wing of the Equinox House.

Among Powel's town offices were: selectman, lister, leather sealer, sealer of weights and measures, treasurer, brander of horses, highway pathmaster on the main road, jail keeper, and town clerk. He served in the latter position twenty-one years, from 1774 to 1795. He was also a justice of the peace and for twelve years, judge of probate.

For seven years Powel was a member of the Legislature and he was often appointed to committees, usually of three members, to investigate and report on petitions and various other matters brought to the Legislature. His services as committeeman and delegate included: Committee of Safety; Committee to Administer Public Safety; committee to act with New Hampshire regarding the legality of land titles in the New Hampshire Grants; committee to divide Manchester into school districts; committee to act with the convention to set up rules for mutual defense and guidance in 1775; Dorset Convention, which met at Cephas Kent's tavern in 1776; convention of 109 delegates July 24, 1776, which created the Republic of Vermont; convention which met at Bennington January 6, 1791 to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

Martin Powel was an extensive landholder. Set off to him as a Proprietor were ten tracts (usually fifty acres each though two consisted of twenty-five); one tract of 100 acres; and two tracts of forty-eight acres. Also recorded are thirteen transactions, the last in 1793 in which he purchased various acreages from other holders. A summary of fifteen sales by him would indicate that he disposed of well over 500 acres. All but one are recorded in English pounds, which totaled 1,784. The other was for \$500. These holdings, though not as extensive as those held by some others, seem to have been well chosen and were disposed of at satisfactory profits. Even so, a house he occupied which was located about two rods south of



the old Court House was mortgaged to Joseph Burr, to whom Powel's administrator, his son Martin, Jr., sold it in 1804 for \$150.

In Manchester records written in his own hand, Powel noted his two marriages. He had nine children by his first wife, Rhoda, and three by his second wife, Elizabeth Harris. Rhoda died April 20, 1777 and he married Elizabeth March 1, 1778. There seems to be no record of where either wife was buried or of Rhoda's family name.

Martin Powell, Jr. (he used both 'l's') moved to Westford, Vermont, 115 miles north of Manchester, and was elected town clerk there at the first town meeting, March 1793. His father, Martin Powel, Esq., followed in 1795, accompanied by his fourteen-year-old daughter, Electa. To account for this migration—the grantees to whom Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire gave Westford sold some of their rights to a group of proprietors in the Manchester area. At least one meeting of the Westford Proprietors was held in Dorset and another at the house of Jared Munson in Manchester. At that meeting, Martin Powel, Esq., served as clerk pro tem. Gideon Ormsby, a Proprietor, sold land in Westford to Martin Powell, Jr., and possibly to his father, but the records do not always clearly distinguish between father and son.

Again in Westford, the father's talents in public office were recognized. He was chosen town clerk in 1796 as well as pound keeper and sealer of weights and measures. He continued as town clerk into 1800 and was also elected treasurer. As justice of the peace, he performed the first wedding ceremony in the neighboring town of Essex.

The year 1800, however, was apparently one of illness. Although Powel had been elected town clerk, the records indicate he did not serve. His death was recorded by his son as August 20, 1800. The date on the gravestone in the Brookside Cemetery, three miles west of the village, is August 22. Though he was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, no flag flies at his grave. The inscription on his stone, however, seems particularly fitting and whoever composed it must have known the man well. It reads:

The most active genius—the most acknowledged usefulness—the strongest attachments will not save from the gripe of death.

Martin Powell, Jr., entered the ministry after some years in

Westford. He was in Underhill in 1813 and preached in Rupert in 1820. He died in 1849 and his gravestone stands beside his father's.

GIDEON ORMSBY (September 24, 1736–January 21, 1804)

Gideon Ormsby was another influential citizen whose activities were of considerable importance in Manchester's early history. He held several of the same offices as Martin Powel, Esq., and they both served on the same committees at various times.

Among his offices were: moderator, Proprietors' meeting, October 2, 1783; moderator, town meeting at least three times; selectman; lister; tythingman; hayward; town treasurer for several years; treasurer of Proprietors, 1802; sealer of weights and measures; trustee of public school lands; grand juryman, 1781; representative of Manchester in the Legislature seventeen years.

He was a member of the committee to lay out a highway through Manchester in 1764; on a Proprietors' committee for land surveys, 1784; on a committee to make a more equal division of town highway districts, 1794; and on a committee to examine the accounts of selectmen and the treasurer.

Ormsby was captain of a company of militia located in Manchester in 1778 and was sent to the frontier with thirty-one men where they served eight days. He was eventually ranked a major. He was one of a group of volunteers who went to oppose New Yorkers on the east side of the state in 1779.

In Manchester he lived on premises subsequently owned by Governor Richard Skinner, later the Canfield place now owned by Cutler Severance. His home and some of his land holdings were at Ormsby Hill on U. S. Rte. 7. He was influential in getting the county buildings located on the Village green in 1794.

Like the other Manchester Proprietors, Major Ormsby was interested in land dealings. His holdings seem to have been quite extensive and were probably profitable. At least fourteen lots totaling 582 acres were set out to him as a Proprietor. In addition, he made thirty-four purchases, the last on March 22, 1814. The last of his forty-seven land sales was in 1808. He was also interested in land dealings in Westford.

The fact that Book B of Proprietors' Records is missing prevents exact accuracy in estimating the Proprietors' original holdings.

These may have been more extensive than available records show.

Ormsby is buried in the old part of Dellwood Cemetery.

TIMOTHY MEAD (1724–1802)

Timothy Mead owes his measure of distinction in the early settlement of Manchester to his role as property owner and man of business rather than to service through public office. He was, however, elected pathmaster in the northeast part of town in 1776 and 1778; fence viewer in 1794 and 1796; selectman for eight years; brander of horses; member of the committee to settle accounts with the town officers (auditors); and collector for the Proprietors' assessment in 1802.

Mead became owner of 200 acres of land at Factory Point, which is now Manchester Center. He built a sawmill, gristmill, fulling mill, distillery, and store there. Refusing to provide land for the erection of county buildings, he did, however, give land for the site of the Baptist church, first near the Factory Point Cemetery and later, at its present location.

SAMUEL FRENCH

Samuel French's contribution to the growth of Manchester was principally as surveyor for the Proprietors. He was also county surveyor in 1782 and town surveyor for six years. He served as lister in 1784 and as selectman in 1794.

§ *Others of Influence*

JAMES ANDERSON (September 12, 1798–December 22, 1881)  
Came here from Andover Theological Seminary as candidate for Congregational church pulpit in May 1829; accepted the call for \$600 a year and was pastor thirty years; clerk, first board of trustees, Burr and Burton Seminary; nicknamed "Priest Anderson" because he was one of the last Calvinistic preachers using the wrath of God rather than love of God as a motive to move the hearts of men; has also been called the "ideal country clergyman and highest type of Christian gentleman—dignified, austere, and stern."

FRANK C. ARCHIBALD (December 31, 1857–April 19, 1935)  
Graduated Middlebury High School, Vermont Academy; admitted





Ahiman L. Miner (1804-1886), Manchester lawyer who spoke at the famous Stratton Whig Convention in 1840 with Daniel Webster.



Mrs. Susan (Roberts) Miner, second wife of Ahiman L. Miner. A lady of considerable influence, especially in Village affairs, Mrs. Miner was held in high regard.



Loveland Munson (1843-1921), Chief Justice, Vermont Supreme Court.



Mary Campbell Munson (1862-1954), wife of Judge Munson and like him, descended from the oldest families in Manchester. Mrs. Munson is especially remembered for her service and devotion to the First Congregational church, Burr and Burton Seminary, and the Mark Skinner Library.



Frank C. Archibald (1857-1935), Manchester lawyer.



Franklin H. Orvis (1824-1900), foresighted "father" of Manchester's summer business.



Charles F. Orvis (1831-1915), founder of the famed Manchester fly-rod business which still bears his name. This picture was taken in 1913.



Icy Palmer (1823-1911), Tuscarora Indian. A Manchester resident for many years, she is buried directly behind the greenhouse at Dellwood Cemetery.

to Vermont bar, 1886, and came to Manchester, 1888, to open office; state's attorney, Bennington County, 1892-1894, 1914-1916; represented Manchester in Legislature, 1904, 1906; Senator from Bennington County, 1910; Attorney General of Vermont, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1924; town law agent, 1932; member, school board; moderator, town meeting.

ALICE BENNETT (July 8, 1870-August 10, 1958) Born in Manchester, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Bennett; register of probate under Probate Judge William B. Edgerton; assistant to Town Clerk Hiram Eggleston; town clerk, 1919-1952; compiler of published record of all soldiers from Manchester in Civil War, Spanish-American War, and first World War.

OTTO R. BENNETT (August 14, 1866-November 21, 1949) Graduate of Burr and Burton Seminary, 1883; purchased and became editor of the *Manchester Journal*, 1905; formed and became president, Manchester Printing Company, 1922; postmaster, 1922-1934; representative of Manchester in Legislature, 1922; member, Odd Fellows and Masons; "a crusading editor for the advancement of town and state" who had a thorough knowledge of the printing business.

WILLIAM P. BLACK (June 2, 1801-September 3, 1887) Son of Captain Peter Black, merchant and hotelman of early Manchester; deacon, Congregational church; trustee, treasurer, Burr and Burton Seminary; town clerk, 1836-1842; town treasurer; cashier, Manchester Bank, Battenkill Bank, Battenkill National Bank.

WILLIAM A. BURNHAM (December 29, 1805-May 8, 1860) Educated at Pinkerton Academy, Derry, New Hampshire, and at Andover (Mass.) Teacher's Seminary; outstanding teacher at Burr and Burton Seminary from 1835 to 1860; associate principal with Rev. J. D. Wickham; first school superintendent in Manchester; was first to admit girls to his classes at the Seminary; monument at Dellwood Cemetery notable.

JOSEPH BURR (August 11, 1772-April 14, 1828) Came to Manchester in 1793 from Hempstead, Long Island; opened general



store in Village; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, 1824; stockholder, Peru Turnpike; first to hold liquor license in town; gave money for town poor farm; amassed fortune of \$135,000 which he bequeathed to religious and educational institutions, the most vital to Manchester being \$10,000 for founding Burr and Burton Seminary.

ELIAS B. BURTON (1816–1892) Graduated from Middlebury College, 1837; admitted to bar, 1842; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, 1856–1857; Senator from Bennington County, 1865; state's attorney, Bennington County; law partner of A. L. Miner, Samuel S. Burton, Loveland Munson; one of two delegates representing first Vermont Congressional District at National Republican Convention at Chicago at which Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the presidency; trustee, president of the board, Burr and Burton Seminary, 1859–1891.

JOSIAH BURTON (February 22, 1777–April 22, 1853) Sheriff of Bennington County, twenty-one years; first board of trustees, Burr and Burton Seminary; largest single contributor to fund that secured Burr's bequest and founded school; left \$11,000 legacy, half for Burr Seminary, half for separate educational facilities for females if stipulation complied with within four years; by default entire sum went to Burr and Burton, which decided to admit girls and thus became first coeducational secondary school in Vermont.

AUGUSTUS G. CLARK (October 5, 1812–May 10, 1879) Eldest son of Myron Clark, who came to Manchester in 1825 from Rupert; both operated Factory Point tannery (M. Clark & Son) with A. G. Clark later entering partnership with Mason S. Colburn; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, 1849; postmaster, Factory Point, 1861–1870.

MYRON CLARK (September 2, 1790–March 8, 1869) Rebuilt gristmill purchased from Timothy Mead at Factory Point, 1840, and is given credit for building up value of Factory Point property; first president, Bennington and Rutland Railroad; first board of trustees, Burr and Burton Seminary.

MASON S. COLBURN (June 6, 1837–February 18, 1895) Partner in A. G. Clark & Co., Factory Point gristmill, marble mill, and tannery; managing director, Bennington and Rutland Railroad; captain, Company A, 11th Regiment, Vermont Militia and later, colonel; not a Civil War veteran but did much to encourage enlistment and liberal bounties; representative of Manchester in the Legislature; Senator from Bennington County; moderator, town meeting; responsible for movement to restock woods with deer.

HARVEY K. FOWLER (1818–1909) Graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, 1840; admitted to Vermont bar, 1842; judge of probate and register of probate for twenty-seven years.

R. BURR GLEASON (March 11, 1873–May 20, 1947) Representative of Manchester in the Legislature, 1935, 1943, 1945; superintendent, Factory Point Cemetery; town grand juror; officer, First Baptist church; deacon, over thirty-nine years, and Sunday School superintendent, over twenty years, at Baptist church; Manchester commander, state commander, Sons of Veterans; justice of the peace.

EDWARD GRIFFITH (January 7, 1871–December 14, 1948) Born East Dorset; graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, Dartmouth College, and New York law school; admitted New York bar, 1896, Vermont bar, 1909; selectman, Dorset; judge of probate, thirty-eight years; member, Bennington County and Vermont Bar Associations; chairman, Battenkill Valley Chapter, American Red Cross; chairman, Manchester Salvation Army committee; charter member, Manchester Rotary Club; member and one of organizers, Manchester Board of Trade; clerk, treasurer, Village; director, Chamber of Commerce; president, Factory Point National Bank; trustee, treasurer, Dellwood Cemetery Association; president, trustee, Southern Vermont Artists, Inc.; counsellor, Vermont Society of Mayflower Descendants.

CHARLES H. HAWLEY (January 6, 1861–March 30, 1943) Deacon, trustee, Congregational church; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary, 1907–1943; trustee, Dellwood Cemetery Association, Mark Skinner Library; director, Factory Point National Bank.

LEMUEL HAYNES (1753–1833) Self-educated Negro who was a “Minute Man” in the Continental Army; ordained to ministry, 1785; pastor, West Rutland church, thirty years; pastor, Manchester Congregational church, 1818–1822; spiritual advisor to the Boorns in their murder trial, which was held during his pastorate here and in his church due to lack of room in the Court House; pastor, Granville, New York, at time of his death; biography has been published.

THOMAS J. HEALEY (March 30, 1874–July 9, 1949) President, Manchester Board of Trade; prudential committee, Fire District; charter member, president, Manchester Rotary Club; exalted ruler, Elks, Eagles; Mason; troop committee, Boy Scouts of America.

EDWARD HUNT HEMENWAY (October 29, 1883–June 16, 1938) Graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, 1901; attended University of Michigan; owner, hardware store; president, Village, while cement road was under construction and put out of office because road was too wide; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary, twenty-five years, and chairman, prudential committee; his obituary said he offered “a life of friendship and service” to Manchester.

LEWIS EDWARD HEMENWAY (June 12, 1877–March, 1915) Graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, 1896, and Yale College, 1901; received medical training, University of Michigan and Detroit College of Medicine; Hemenway Prize at Burr and Burton Seminary given in his memory at Commencement for student who has done most for Seminary; general practitioner, office on Bonnet Street, Center.

LEWIS H. HEMENWAY (November 30, 1841–August 30, 1925) Born in Siam, where his father, Asa, was a missionary from Vermont; graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, Middlebury College; served in the Civil War, 12th Regiment, Vermont Volunteers; graduated from University of Vermont Medical College, 1866; also trained at King’s County, New York Hospital; began as general practitioner in Manchester, 1868; trustee, historian, and benefactor of Burr and Burton Seminary until his death.



A. J. HICKS (December 5, 1878–November 20, 1934) Graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, 1897; treasurer, clerk, deacon, Baptist church; treasurer, Bennington County Co-operative Creamery; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary, 1932–1934; member, chairman, school board; executive committee, Manchester District Nursing Association; town treasurer; assistant cashier, Factory Point National Bank; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, 1927, 1929.

JOSIAH BURTON HOLLISTER (June 17, 1831–December 4, 1907) Attended Burr and Burton Seminary; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, 1862; Senator from Bennington County, 1864; member, Council of Censors, 1869, which called the Constitutional Convention of 1870; superintendent of schools in Manchester, 1858, 1860–1863; in East Dorset and Rutland marble business; trustee, president of the Board, Burr and Burton Seminary, giving more than \$25,000 to the school during his lifetime; moderator, town meeting.

EDWARD SWIFT ISHAM (January 15, 1836–February 15, 1902) Son of Pierpont Isham, early Pownal and Bennington lawyer and Supreme Court judge, and grandson of Ezra Isham, early Manchester doctor; educated Lawrenceville Academy, Williams College, Harvard Law School; admitted to bar, 1858; formed partnership in Chicago with Robert Todd Lincoln in firm of Isham, Lincoln, and Beale and was thereby a participant in many noted legal cases; president, Ekwanok Country Club; corporation member, Mark Skinner Library; member, Manchester Historical Society; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary; "Ormsby Hill" was his Manchester home.

EDWARD SWIFT ISHAM, JR. (1869–1927) Graduated from Yale University; by occupation, a New York manufacturer; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary, Dellwood Cemetery Association; member, board of governors, Ekwanok Country Club.

GEORGE F. LAWRENCE (July 3, 1882–June 29, 1957) Born in Manchester; graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, Albany

Law School, 1905; legal practice, New York City, Manchester, Vermont; judge of probate; member, Bennington County bar; lister; clerk, treasurer, Village; justice of the peace; member, Masons, Rod and Gun Club.

ROBERT TODD LINCOLN (August 1, 1843–July 26, 1926) Born in Springfield, Illinois, the eldest son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln; educated at Phillips Exeter Academy, Harvard University, and the University of Illinois; Secretary of War, President Garfield's cabinet; Minister to Great Britain four years under President Harrison; married Mary Harlan, September 24, 1868; president, Pullman Company; his Manchester connections date back to 1863, when he accompanied his mother and Mrs. Abner Doubleday to the Equinox House; he often returned to visit his law partner, Edward S. Isham, and in 1902 bought several hundred acres of mountain and valley land which he developed into "Hildene," an English type of estate; his children were Abraham Lincoln 2d (Jack) who died at the age of sixteen; Mrs. Charles Isham, who also lived in Manchester for a time and whose son, Lincoln, is now a resident of Dorset; and Mrs. F. E. Johnson, whose children by an earlier marriage to Warren Beckwith were Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith and Mary Lincoln Beckwith, the latter a Manchester resident (1960); Robert T. Lincoln died in Manchester and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery; all Village flags were at half-staff and many houses were draped with mourning; his friend, Horace G. Young, said of Lincoln's relationship with his adopted village—"Few men . . . have exerted upon a community an influence at once so strong, so gentle, and so kindly. In this village he was more than a friend and benefactor; he was a strong and unusual character who enjoyed the universal respect and affection of all who knew him" (*Manchester Journal*, August 26, 1926).

ANDREW MARTIN (May 26, 1860–June 21, 1940) Born Jersey City, New Jersey; came to Manchester in 1878 to manage Equinox House for over sixty years; vice-president, Equinox Company; president, Manchester Village, 1924–1938; member, officer, Manchester Community Club; honorary life member, New England Hotel Association; member, Manchester Chamber of Commerce;

managed hotels in Georgia and Florida also; made a Knight of Malta by Pope Pius XI, February, 1932.

**AHIMAN L. MINER** (September 23, 1804–July 19, 1886) Born in Middletown Springs, Vermont, the son of Deacon Gideon and Rachel (Davison) Miner; admitted to Vermont bar, 1832; practiced law in Wallingford before coming to Manchester; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, two terms; Senator from Bennington County, 1840; clerk, House of Representatives, 1836–1838; state's attorney, 1843–1844; register of probate, eight years; judge of probate, four years; justice of the peace, forty years; chairman, judiciary committee, eight years; in 1840 spoke at famous Stratton Whig Convention with Daniel Webster; was likely candidate for governor, but never succeeded; second marriage to Susan Miner, renowned and beloved in Manchester, by whom he had two sons, A. Louis Miner (1854–1908), a teacher, and George Miner, editor of Sunday edition, *New York Sun*, at his death in 1918.

**LOVELAND MUNSON** (June 21, 1843–March 24, 1921) Graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, 1862; studied law with Elias B. Burton; admitted to Bennington County bar, 1866; law partner of Burton; register of probate, ten years; judge of probate, six years; town clerk, ten years; associate judge, Vermont Supreme Court, twenty-six years; Chief Justice, two years; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, three terms; Senator from Bennington County, one term; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary, forty-eight years, president in 1908, and president emeritus, 1919; president, Dellwood Cemetery Association, thirty years; president of the board, Mark Skinner Library; editor, the *Manchester Journal*, 1863–1866; author, *The Early History of Manchester* published here in 1875.

**MARY CAMPBELL MUNSON** (October 13, 1862–July 13, 1954) Daughter of Ann Maria (Hollister) and Alex Bennett Campbell; granddaughter of Polly (Munson) Hollister; niece of Josiah Burton; graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, 1880; attended Smith College; married Loveland Munson, 1882; historian, Burr and Burton Seminary, Manchester Congregational church; trustee, Mark



Skinner Library; officer, Vermont Botanical and Bird Club; member, Vermont Historical Society; a founder, Monday Club.

**J. S. PETTIBONE** (1786–1872) The son of Samuel; graduated from Middlebury College; probate judge; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, several terms; member, Governor's Council before State Senate was instituted; officer, War of 1812; presidential elector; banking inspector; county judge; author of valuable historical manuscript; married Laura Graves; his son, Albert W., was mayor of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, during Civil War, and his son, W. B., was a trustee of Burr and Burton Seminary who gave \$10,000 for the athletic field; his grandson, Albert, Jr., was a Manchester summer resident, also a benefactor of the Seminary.

**SAMUEL PETTIBONE** (1740–1822) Wealthy farmer who purchased the first house built in Manchester after it was confiscated from the Tory, Samuel Rose; veteran, Revolutionary War; selectman, 1780.

**CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS** (May 16, 1753–May 16, 1832) Son of John Roberts, who came to Manchester in 1764; went as a boy with Ethan Allen to capture Fort Ticonderoga; later became general of the militia; veteran, War of 1812.

**MARTIN ROBERTS** (January 8, 1778–April 25, 1863) Eldest son of General Christopher Roberts; after clerking in Joseph Burr's store, he undertook stagecoach line between Boston and Saratoga which was a financial failure; major-general, Vermont Militia; Grand Master, Vermont Masons; Federalist party leader, northern Bennington County; built "The Old Homestead," center of the Robertsville section of Manchester, at close of the War of 1812.

**LEONARD SARGEANT** (1793–June 17, 1888) Born in Dorset; entered Burr and Burton Seminary at the age of seven, passed college exams at age of twelve, and was admitted to Williams College at age fourteen; studied law in Judge Richard Skinner's office; early practice in Pawlet; member, county court; member, Supreme Court of Vermont; president, Council of Censors; member, Constitu-

tional Convention; State's Attorney; Senator from Bennington County; representative of Manchester in the Legislature; veteran, War of 1812; judge of probate, seven terms; Lieutenant-Governor of Vermont, 1846-1848; defense counsel, Boorn murder.

WALTER H. SHAW (June 15, 1883-August 24, 1934) Graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, University of Vermont, 1907; school superintendent; teacher, acting principal, trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary; news correspondent for this area, Associated Press; secretary, treasurer, Manchester District Nursing Association; treasurer, vestryman, Zion Episcopal church; director, Factory Point National Bank.

DAVID K. SIMONDS (April 5, 1839-March 29, 1917) Born in Peru, Vermont; graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary, Middlebury College (Phi Beta Kappa, 1862); served with 2nd Tennessee Regiment, Civil War; editor, *Newport (Vermont) Express and Standard*, 1865-1866; editor, the *Manchester Journal* from 1870; purchased newspaper from F. H. Orvis, 1871; Village postmaster; town clerk, thirty-four years; secretary, Battenkill Valley Industrial Society; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, 1886; Senator from Bennington County, 1888; county examiner of teachers; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary; fellow, Middlebury College; clerk, Fire District and Village; register of probate; member, Orleans County bar, Bennington County Bar Association; deacon, Sunday School superintendent, choir member of Congregational church; author, *American Wit and Humor* and *War Stories*, the former published anonymously with second edition coming out in London; married Ellen L. Clark and was father of Clark Simonds and Anna Louise Orvis.

MARK SKINNER (September 13, 1813-September 16, 1887) Born in Manchester; graduated from Middlebury College; son of Governor Richard Skinner; trained at New Haven Law School; admitted to Chicago bar, 1836; city attorney; appointed District Attorney by President Tyler; Master-in-Chancery, Cook County; member, Illinois Legislature; judge, Cook County Court; headed U. S. Sanitary Commission, Civil War; instrumental in organizing Chicago's pub-

lic school and library systems; an incorporator of Chicago Historical Society, much of his valuable collection of Americana destroyed in the great fire; Manchester's Dellwood Cemetery founded largely through his influence and generosity; Mark Skinner Library given by his daughter, Mrs. Frances Skinner Willing; Manchester G.A.R. post named for his only son, killed in Civil War.

**RICHARD SKINNER** (May 30, 1778–May 23, 1833) Son of General Timothy Skinner; born, educated (including law school) in Litchfield, Connecticut; came to Manchester, 1799; admitted to bar; State's Attorney, thirteen terms; judge of probate, seven terms; associate judge, Vermont Supreme Court, eight terms; Chief Justice, Vermont Supreme Court, 1816; member, 13th Congress; representative of Manchester in the Legislature, two terms; speaker of the house; defense counsel, Boorn murder trial, 1819; Governor of Vermont, 1820–1823; reappointed Chief Justice, five terms; trustee, Middlebury College.

**THEODORE SWIFT** (1839–1907) Public-spirited merchant in Manchester, forty-one years (Cone & Burton, Cone & Swift); representative of Manchester in the Legislature, 1878; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary, Mark Skinner Library; Congregational church leader.

**LESTER H. THOMPSON** (November 11, 1888–February 26, 1948) Born in Manchester; in 1922 he founded the Manchester Printing Company with Otto R. and G. S. Bennett and in 1940 on the elder Bennett's retirement, became president; school director, fifteen years; chairman, school board, 1931–1945; trustee, president, Village; school band due largely to his endeavor; outstanding in I.O.O.F.—Grand Patriarch, 1936; Grand Representative at the time of his death; Lt. Col., Patriarchs Militant; received Decoration of Chivalry, 1939; owner-publisher, statewide monthly newspaper, *The Vermont Odd Fellow*, 1937–1948; shortly after his death, a special fund was started in his memory for purchasing audiovisual aids for Manchester schools.

**JOHN H. WHIPPLE** (June 13, 1845–March 20, 1922) Employee, later manager, A. G. Clark's gristmill; postmaster, Manchester Cen-



ter, 1897-1914; cashier, Factory Point National Bank, twenty years; owned drugstore business in 1896 still operating at Manchester Center in his name; Grand Master, Vermont Masons, two years; president, Western Vermont Masonic Union; married Mary N. Clark and had three sons, Augustus C., Harris C., and John C. Whipple.

JOSEPH D. WICKHAM (April 4, 1797-May, 1891) Entered Yale at age of thirteen and graduated in 1815; private secretary to Yale's first president, Timothy Dwight; ordained Congregational minister and expert on religious work of his century; headmaster, Burr and Burton Seminary, 1837-1853, 1856-1862; trustee, Burr and Burton Seminary, twenty-five years; professor (1854-1855), trustee, Middlebury College; friend of Samuel Morse, Sir Thaddeus Fairbanks; his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Page Harris, still owns Wickham home in the Village.

JAMES WILBUR (November 11, 1856-April 28, 1929) Born in Cleveland, Ohio; cashier, N.Y.N.H.H.R.R.; president, Royal Trust Company, later merging to Central Trust Company of Chicago; one of the founders, Institute of American Genealogy; trustee, Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, to which he gave \$100,000 as endowment; trustee, American Antiquarian Society, to which he gave \$100,000; trustee, University of Vermont, Putnam Memorial Hospital in Bennington, and the New York Historical Society; gave \$200,000 to the University of Vermont for erection of the Ira Allen Chapel as monument to the school's founder, whom Wilbur immortalized in *Life of Ira Allen (1751-1814)*, *Founder of Vermont*; received honorary LL.D. from University of Vermont, 1925; in Manchester, he was owner of Wilburton Hall, an extensive model farm, and devoted to improvement of roads and highways.

#### THE ORVIS FAMILY

No one of the Orvis name lives year-round in Manchester, but it will be a long time before that distinguished family is forgotten. The patriarch was Levi Church Orvis, Sr., who came to Manchester from Brattleboro and bought lot # 2 as laid out in the town records from the old grant. He was then twenty-one, having been

born May 19, 1799. On the north end of the Equinox House lot were his brick store and the dwelling he built in 1832, one of the finest in town. The wife of L. C. Orvis was Electa S. Purdy, daughter of one of Manchester's oldest families and a belle of the town.

Orvis, in addition to his store, had several ox teams drawing marble from the Dorset quarries. Due to a cholera epidemic, he was quarantined in Philadelphia while transporting a cargo there. He contracted the disease and died September 25, 1849. Of his seven children, two became outstanding in Manchester history.

Franklin H. Orvis, born July 12, 1824, attended Burr and Burton Seminary and Union Village Academy, Greenwich, New York. He spent some years in mercantile pursuits in Wisconsin, Illinois, and New York before beginning his hotel career. After his father's death, F. H. Orvis bought the family's elegant home with its double parlors, enlarged it, and opened it in 1853 as the Equinox House. F. H. was also proprietor of hotels in Jacksonville and Palatka, Florida, for the winter trade.

With the aid of his sons—Paul, Edward (Ned), William, George, and Louis—Franklin Orvis became the "father" of Manchester's summer business. Though all the residents and property owners did their share toward beautifying the Village, the greatest work and success was shown by Orvis as owner of the Equinox House. He was a man of boundless energy. If something about the hotel or Manchester appeared in the *Manchester Journal*, he ordered, marked, and sent some three or four hundred papers to people he knew were interested.

He was a most cordial host and the "presiding genius" of his establishment. A fondness for old people led him, on at least three occasions, to entertain all the older people in town at the Equinox Music Hall. He received plenty of free advertising when he became one of the first hotel owners to issue the edict—"No dogs taken." Nearly all the reputable hotels quickly followed his lead.

In 1869 Franklin H. Orvis, as a Republican, was elected to the Vermont senate. When he died, October 30, 1900, the *Manchester Journal*, of which he was once editor and owner, said:

There has been no public improvement in which he has not taken the lead and borne a good share of the expense. Our marble sidewalks, our

beautiful cemetery, our three churches, our soldiers' monument, in short all that makes Manchester attractive is due largely to his foresight, energy, and liberality. Manchester is in mourning; she never had a more worthy or loyal son.

Another son of Levi Orvis to win laurels for the family was Charles F., born in Manchester June 19, 1831. A man of many talents and more than average ability, Charles Orvis was at various times a health officer, chief engineer of the fire department, Village trustee, druggist, dentist, postmaster, old-line Democrat, and inventor. He was also host of a large summer boarding house, the Orvis Inn. There were few men better informed in the political history of the United States. Orvis was the first passenger on the earliest express train to run through this valley.

Charles Orvis' chief claim to fame was the Manchester business still bearing his name. In the 1850s he began to manufacture fishing rods, reels, and artificial flies and made a trip to England purposely to learn how to make split bamboo rods. He became eminently successful and his products are still noted for their excellence. His daughter, Mary Ellen Marbury (1856–1914) assisted him in the fly rod business and wrote the valuable treatise, *Favorite Flies*, about flies and fly-tying. It won World's Fair prizes and is now a collector's item. She also published a book of square dance music and calls.

Charles F. Orvis died March 24, 1915. Probably the most notable of other members of the Orvis family were Edward Church Orvis and Mrs. George (Anna Louise Simonds) Orvis, son and daughter-in-law of Franklin Orvis.

Ned Orvis (May 18, 1858–March 26, 1918) managed the Equinox House for a while before and after his father's death. He was a Selectman for eight years, a representative from Manchester in the Legislature in 1890, and a county Senator in 1908. Active in forming the Village corporation in 1901, he was its first president, remaining in office until 1912. He was a charter member of the Vermont Fish and Game League, a treasurer of Dellwood Cemetery for many years, and a trustee of the Mark Skinner Library.

His sister-in-law, Louise Orvis (June 13, 1874–February 22, 1953) was the daughter of *Manchester Journal* editor, David K. Si-



monds. She was a graduate of Burr and Burton Seminary. At one time president of Manchester Village, she was also a member of the Republican National Committee for Vermont. Instrumental in founding the "Women's Vermont Republican Club," she was its president in 1925. In Manchester she was president of the Dellwood Cemetery trustees and a leader in the Garden Club.

Following the death of George Orvis in 1917, she became president and leading stockholder in her husband's business, the Equinox Company. This included the Equinox House and the Equinox Spring Company. Mrs. Orvis was not only one of the first to see the possibilities of Manchester as a ski resort, but she was among the first to encourage the development of golf and aviation as a means of bringing more business to the town.

CHARLES F. ORVIS

They said he was a scoffer, had no faith—  
 His neighbors on the mountain-village street—  
 And added that he found his drink and meat  
 In argument; of course he shunned the church.  
 His passion was to urge some old-time score,  
 Do battle for each lost Whig cause, He swore  
 And held by the coat to gain a point.  
 When fired by talk he sang the "Marseillaise,"  
 His broken voice pitched high to catch the sway  
 And tumult that it stirred within his blood.  
 And then, without a word, perhaps, he slipped away,  
 At eighty, on the mountain-side to stray  
 And fish the streams or hunt with his own hound.  
 When suddenly it came his time to die  
 He spoke without a quaver. His keen eye  
 With piercing glance searched every face near his;  
 And then he called his youngest son apart,  
 The son who was the kernel of his heart—  
 The hidden sweet of all his bitter years—  
 "I'm going across the river by and by.  
 When you come too, lad, bring your rod and fly."  
 They said he was a scoffer; had no faith.

Margaret Steel Hard

*Harper's Magazine*

1920

## ICY PALMER (September, 1824–July 9, 1911)

Icy Palmer, the aged Tuscarora Indian, was once Manchester's "darling." Two schools of thought prevail about her origin: either she was born of roaming parents two miles south of the Village in a sugar house or she was brought to Manchester when only a few weeks old by an Indian tribe and given away. Her earliest years were spent with the G. S. Purdy and W. P. Black families, though the training she received failed to change her Indian ways.

Some time later, the Ladies Benevolent Society of the Congregational church and the overseer of the poor enabled Icy to lead an independent life in a small house especially built for her. As a supplement to her small income from Manchester benefactors, she gathered quantities of butternuts each fall and in the spring she mixed them with maple sugar to sell.

Everyday, regardless of the weather, Icy walked the roads and toward night trudged home drawing a bundle of wood. If she met anyone, she turned her back and stood with bowed head until they passed. It is said that she once returned to her tribe, but disliking the life, returned to Manchester.

In 1905 Icy still lived alone in her little hut. She was over eighty and losing her mind. Townsfolk fretted when they saw her, dressed for summer, out in the snow. In February 1909 two town fathers accompanied her to the Brattleboro Retreat, which she found a "sumptuous" place. Reports came back that she was perfectly happy. But two years later, Icy died.

Despite having been Manchester's number one welfare case for nearly a century, she had managed to lay away a bit. Icy Palmer had already bought her own lot and headstone at Dellwood Cemetery.



## APPENDIX AND INDEX



## APPENDIX

### MANCHESTER MEN IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (AS TAKEN FROM THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT)

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Amos Allen          | Barnabas Hatch    |
| Dan. Allen          | Cornelius Havens  |
| Jonathan Allen      | Jas. Hennessey    |
| Seth Allen          | Simeon Hine       |
| Robt. Anderson      | Elijah Hollister  |
| Dan'l. Arnold       | John Howard       |
| Reuben Baker        | Benj. Huntley     |
| Martin Barber       | Samuel Hull       |
| Gideon Barber       | James Jameson     |
| Isaac Barker        | Daniel Jones      |
| Thos. Barney        | David Lee         |
| Benj. Beers         | James Lewis       |
| Lewis Beebe         | Robt. Loggan      |
| Rice Beckwith       | Benj. McIntyre    |
| Wm. Bedell          | Jos. McIntyre     |
| Nathan Beman        | Richard McIntyre  |
| Haynes J. Beman     | Isaac Marks       |
| Wm. Bennett         | Aaron Mason       |
| Peter Black         | Jacob Mead        |
| Timothy Bliss       | Philip Mead       |
| Jared Boorn         | Rufus Munson      |
| Nathaniel Boorn     | Thaddeus Munson   |
| Arthur Bostwick     | Jonathan Ormsby   |
| Nathaniel Bostwick  | Gideon Ormsby     |
| Thos. Bull          | Dan'l. Ormsby     |
| Thos. Bull, Jr.     | George Olds       |
| Elijah Burton       | Jacob Odell       |
| Josiah Burton       | John Page         |
| Cal. Chamberlain    | Timothy Pearl     |
| Daniel Champion     | Stephen Pearl     |
| Christopher Collins | Abel Pettibone    |
| Nathaniel Collins   | Sam'l. Pettibone  |
| Elisha Cook         | Seth Pettibone    |
| John Daggett        | Peter Pixley      |
| Job Dean            | Felix Powell      |
| Eliakim Deming      | Martin Powell     |
| Wm. Drew            | Truman Powell     |
| Duncan Dunn         | Benj. Purdy       |
| Asa Farrand         | Reuben Purdy      |
| Peter French        | Daniel Purdy      |
| Wm. Gould           | David Purdy       |
| Silas Goodrich      | Philip Reynolds   |
| Jesse Graves        | Amos Richardson   |
| Thaddeus Harris     | Andrew Richardson |



Nathan Richardson  
 Benj. Roberts  
 Chris. Roberts  
 John Roberts  
 John Roberts Jr.  
 Joel Rose  
 Jesse Sawyer  
 Aaron Sexton  
 George Sexton  
 Jonathan Sexton  
 Wm. Sexton  
 Daniel Shaw  
 Josiah Sheldon  
 Geo. Smith  
 John Smith  
 Nathan Smith  
 Stephen Smith

Peletiah Soper  
 Solomon Soper  
 Moses Sperry  
 Prentice Stores  
 Peleg Sunderland  
 Wallace Sutherland  
 Samuel Sutherland  
 Timothy Skinner  
 Benj. Vaughn  
 James Vaughn  
 Jeremiah Wait  
 Sam'l. Walker  
 Azel Washburn  
 Stephen Washburn  
 Isaac Whelpley  
 Jeremiah Whelpley  
 John White  
 Enoch Woodbridge

MANCHESTER MEN ON REVOLUTIONARY PAYROLLS  
 (FROM THE WHIPPLE COLLECTION)

1776  
 Peleg Sunderland  
 Benjamin Hicock (captain)  
 Gideon Brownson (captain)  
 John Roberts  
 Daniel Purdy  
 Prince Soper  
 Moses Robinson (colonel)  
 Azel Washburn (surgeon)  
 George Sexton  
 Truman Mead (fifer)

1777  
 Nathan Beaman  
 Edw. Soper  
 Josiah Burton  
 Peniel Stevens  
 Amos Allen  
 Hanes Jerry Beaman  
 Silas Canfield  
 Nathan Smith (captain)  
 Eli Brownson (lieut.)

Solomon Soper  
 Felix Powell  
 Felix Powell, jr.  
 Samuel Beaman  
 Philip Reynolds  
 Dan Allen  
 Enos Ross  
 Ebenezer Wilson  
 Isaac Whelpley  
 Martin Powel  
 Solomon Purdy  
 Reuben Purdy  
 Jed Jackson  
 Gilbert Bradley  
 Elisha Allen  
 Amos Chipman  
 Isaac Wallis  
 Benj. Griffin  
 —Boyce  
 Ebenezer Alby  
 Jesse Sawyer (captain)

MANCHESTER MEN IN THE WAR OF 1812  
(FROM THE WHIPPLE COLLECTION)

James Whelpley  
Robert Anderson  
John Black  
Elijah Burton  
Joseph Burton  
Lemuel Collins  
Benj. Dibble  
Gurdon Eaton  
Abram C. Fowler  
John Harris  
Apollas Harvey  
Truman Hill  
Jabez Hawley  
Serenus Kilburn  
Dr. Elijah Littlefield  
Mathew Logan  
Jeremiah Odel  
Daniel Olds  
John R. Pettibone

Silas Smith  
Burton Straight  
Nathan Thompson  
Samuel Thompson  
Thomas Wait  
Eliphalet Wells  
Samuel R. Whidden  
John C. Walker  
John S. Pettibone  
Benjamin Munson  
Alvah Bishop  
Leonard Sargeant  
Truman Kimpton  
David Reynolds  
Samuel Folsom  
David Glazier  
John W. Robinson  
John H. Rule  
Artemus Gleason

MANCHESTER MEN IN THE CIVIL WAR

Everett E. Adams  
Henry C. Allen  
William H. Axtell  
Timothy F. Bacon  
R. E. Baldwin  
James E. Batchelder  
William W. Beals  
Jed D. Bell  
Orville M. Bell  
Daniel W. Bennett  
Harrison T. Bennett  
Willard K. Bennett  
Truman Bentley  
William A. Black  
Collins Blackmer  
John C. Blackmer  
Amos B. Boynton

Charles Brown  
Henry Brown  
James Brown  
William G. Brown  
Charles A. Bundy  
Cyrus Burlingame  
Nelson Burnham  
Samuel E. Burnham  
Isaac M. Burton  
Orlando J. Burton  
Edward Campbell  
W. S. Chapin  
Charles W. Chapman  
Brenton Chellis  
Horace C. Clayton  
George Coburn  
Selden H. Coburn

Henry Conger  
Frederick Connor  
E. W. Cook  
Frederick W. Cook  
Samuel J. Covey  
E. M. Cummings  
Henry Cummings  
Hiram P. Cummings  
Silas A. Cummings  
W. H. H. Cummings  
William Cummings  
Daniel Curran  
Zimri R. Dailey  
Frederick Davis  
Henry C. Dawson  
Almon F. Day  
Joseph Demar  
George Dickenson  
Charles P. Dudley  
Douglas H. Dyer  
Fayette Dyer  
Daniel W. Eddy  
Truman B. Eaton  
Mark Farnsworth  
David O. Felt  
Thomas Finney  
George Fleming  
Horace J. Fuller  
Egbert Gleason  
Jerome Gleason  
Myron Gleason  
Shepherd Gleason  
R. C. Gray  
Joseph Grenier  
Dennis Haley  
J. H. Haley  
Michael Hanlon  
Cyrus M. Hard  
John Harrison  
Merritt B. Haskins  
Lewis H. Hemenway  
James Hicks  
Charles H. Hill  
William H. Hinkley  
Myron Jameson  
Smith Jameson  
Richard Johnson  
Frank A. Jordan  
Morte Kears

Tom Kears  
Benjamin F. Ketchum  
Andrew J. Kilburn  
Serenus Kilburn  
Joseph U. Leonard  
William M. Logan  
James Martin  
Dyer Mattison  
Patrick McCaughey  
Albert McCoy  
John McLaughlin  
Charles Mears  
Josiah B. Munson  
Samuel Norcross  
Henry O'Hayer  
Thomas Peer  
Elijah Phillips  
George H. Phillips  
Henry C. Phillips  
Charles A. Pierce  
Everett W. Pierce  
Lyman Pike  
Napoleon Plant  
Charles H. Pond  
Harrison Prindle  
Moses Reaulo  
Vietal Reaulo  
Calvin Reed  
John Reed  
John Reynolds  
Charles H. Rideout  
Richard Roberts  
Silas H. Seaver  
George H. Sessions  
George W. Sessions Jr.  
Charles G. Sheldon  
David Kendall Simonds  
Frank Smith  
William H. Smith  
Abram Straight  
George H. Swift  
Horace S. Sykes  
Benjamin Taylor  
Edwin A. Taylor  
Joseph F. Tomb  
Nathaniel Towsley  
George P. Utley  
Myron W. Utley  
John M. Vanderlip



|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| John Vaughn        | Harmon Whitton      |
| Thomas M. Waite    | H. Wightman         |
| Charles H. Walker  | N. A. Wightman      |
| William W. Warner  | William Winters     |
| John L. Waters     | William C. Wilson   |
| Sidney D. Way      | Charles L. Woodward |
| Orsemus W. Weaver  | William H. Woodward |
| Norman A. Wellman  | William G. Wright   |
| Henry Wellman      | Charles M. Wyman    |
| Solomon H. Wescott | Henry A. Wyman      |
| Alonzo Wheeler     | Merrit D. Wyman     |
| D. C. Wheeler      | Myron G. Wyman      |
| George J. White    | Warren M. Wyman     |
| Ora O. Whitman     | Henry D. Young      |

## MANCHESTER MEN IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Lezem Bovey | John D. Covey |
|-------------|---------------|

## MANCHESTER MEN IN WORLD WAR I

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Maurice Abbot          | Andrew S. Cadoret     |
| Carl E. Abramson       | C. Burr Cadoret       |
| Edward M. Abramson     | Luther J. Calahan     |
| Charles Anderson       | Niles G. Carlson      |
| Edward Anderson        | Nicholas Carr         |
| Robert L. Anderson     | Earl B. Charbonneau   |
| Walter H. Bamford      | Arthur B. Cherbonneau |
| William E. Belware     | Gilbert Cherbonneau   |
| George Stewart Bennett | Harry R. Clark, Jr.   |
| Harold P. Bennett      | Benjamin G. Cleveland |
| David Bentley          | Emile Cody            |
| Gordon Bentley         | William W. Collette   |
| Walter L. Bentley      | Samuel Cominsky       |
| Daniel E. Blackmer     | Mike D. Cosalio       |
| Fay W. Botsford        | William Coulomb       |
| Ernest J. Bourn        | Fred C. Covey         |
| Lorimer H. Brown       | Alexander Derry       |
| Arr Andrew Brownson    | William Disatell      |
| Edgar C. Bryant Jr.    | Anastasio Dorrighuzzi |
| Paul W. Buck           | George E. Douglas     |
| Edmund Bushee          | Charles R. Douglass   |
| Frank Bushee           | Francis A. Douglass   |
| Fred Bushee            | Herbert E. Duling     |
| Albert J. Cadoret      | Robert K. Edgerton    |

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Eric Edwards            | Edward B. McLaughlin   |
| Earl Ellison            | Adolph Mercier         |
| Harry L. Fales          | Robert N. Midwood      |
| Earl H. Fisher          | Byron E. Morgan        |
| George Fisher           | Norman L. Ott          |
| Harry A. Fisher         | Fred Pallato           |
| Harold R. Fleming       | Murio Pasquale         |
| Octave Z. Gaudette, Jr. | Hiland A. Pease        |
| Alexander C. Gemmell    | Charles K. Perkins     |
| Charles Gleason         | Roger C. Perkins       |
| Delbert Haley           | Joseph W. Perry        |
| George R. Hemenway      | Gordon L. Phelps       |
| Hervie W. Hill          | John A. Powers         |
| Leslie W. Hill          | Waldo A. Race          |
| Clarence A. Hosley      | Samuel F. Reynolds     |
| Eugene C. Hosley        | Alfred Roberts         |
| John P. Jackson         | Thomas J. Roberts      |
| Guy E. Johnson          | Leland F. Schlieder    |
| Herbert R. Johnson      | Louis J. Shapiro       |
| George D. Johnston      | Julian H. Shaw         |
| Emanuel A. Kaffatos     | Noble C. Shaw          |
| L. M. Kelley            | Harry M. Sidney        |
| Walter Kelley           | North Parkhurst Siglin |
| William H. Kelton       | John C. Smith          |
| Milo L. Kent            | Thomas E. Smith        |
| Herbert H. King         | Alcides Sorazin        |
| John Larese             | John Stone             |
| John D. LeTray          | John R. Stone          |
| Benjamin Levin          | Vearn Stone            |
| Frank Lombardi          | Peter Therrien         |
| William Long            | George B. Thompson     |
| Nelson M. Lorett        | John Tinder            |
| Albert E. Lorette       | William H. Townsend    |
| James L. Lovejoy        | Leale H. Towsley       |
| Edward J. Lovett        | Robert G. Turner       |
| Luther J. Lyon          | James Vallie           |
| Howard H. Manley        | Lawrence H. Ventres    |
| Alvin J. Markey         | Herbert J. Walker      |
| Edward J. Markey        | John Weckstrom         |
| Norman H. Marsden       | Louis F. Whitton       |
| William Z. Martin       | Roscoe J. Wilcox       |
| Harry H. McGuffin       | Clifford B. Wilson     |
| Kenneth McKim           | Ettore Zandi           |

MANCHESTER'S HONOR ROLL IN WORLD WAR II  
(FROM THE TOWN REPORT, 1945)

An effort has been made to make this list of the men and women from Manchester who served in World War II complete. If any names are omitted it is unintentional. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) either were killed in action or died in the service.

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Benjamin Allen          | Berniece Butterfield   |
| *Eric Allen             | Guy E. Butterfield     |
| James B. Allen          | James B. Campbell      |
| Howard B. Ambrose       | Burton Campney         |
| Richard Ameden          | Kenneth Cagney         |
| Robert Keith Ameden     | Douglas Cain           |
| William Avery           | Donald Cherbonneau     |
| John Balch              | Leo Charbonneau, Jr.   |
| John S. Batchelder, Jr. | Charles Edward Childs  |
| Orrin H. Beattie        | Charles E. Childs, Jr. |
| David Beckwith          | Donald L. Christie     |
| Benjamin Bell           | James N. Christie      |
| Harlan H. Bell          | Allen C. Christie      |
| Herbert Bell            | James McClure Clarke   |
| Clyde Bell              | Frederick W. Clark     |
| Francis H. Benson       | Leonard Clarkson       |
| Harold D. Benson        | Walter Clemons         |
| Oscar W. Bentley        | Max E. Cohen           |
| Philip Bentley          | Sumner Cohen           |
| Roy Bentley             | Everett Cole           |
| Daniel Blackmer, Jr.    | Herbert R. Colburn     |
| Henry R. Brace, Jr.     | John Colburn           |
| Adella Brooks           | Allen L. Cole          |
| David Brooks            | Clinton Cole           |
| Gerald Brooks           | Paul G. Cole           |
| Peter Brooks            | Claude Collette        |
| Robert Brown            | Eugene Collette        |
| Harry Brush             | Richard M. Collette    |
| Robert Bolster          | Clarence E. Comar      |
| Roscoe J. Bolster       | Enver G. Cook          |
| David Boody             | John F. Costello       |
| Heinz Bondy             | Leonard Couch          |
| Lynford Bourn           | Carleton Couch         |
| William Brown           | Duncan Couch           |
| Frederick H. Bryant     | George H. Colvin       |
| Howard Buell            | Scott Curtis           |
| Frank L. Bushee, Jr.    | Bernice M. Davis       |
| Robert Bushee           | Alex Derry, Jr.        |
| Vincent Bushee          | Eleanor Donohue        |



- Reginald Dorr  
DeWitt Drohat  
Amos C. Dupree  
Ormal B. Eaton  
Roger Jesse Eaton  
Joseph Elcox  
\*Walter Elcox  
John A. Eliot  
Whitney Eliot  
Richard C. Elmer  
John J. Evans  
Allen Farnum  
Kenneth Fairman  
William S. Fay  
Stanley E. Fisher  
Donald James Fleming  
Ralph F. Fleming, Jr.  
Harold Forrest  
\*Harvey K. Fowler  
Joseph E. Fowler  
George G. Frelinghuysen  
Peter Frelinghuysen  
Harry Frelinghuysen  
Kenneth Johnston  
William E. Gale  
Harold E. Giddings  
Francis C. Gillam  
John A. Gillam  
Frederick H. Gilmore  
Cleon R. Gleason  
Ralph O. Gleason  
Robert W. Glover  
Lester Golner  
William T. Gouert  
Edmund J. Goodell, Jr.  
Clare W. Gove  
William J. Graham  
Charles Gould Griffith  
Roger M. Griffith  
Franklin S. Groff  
Edward C. Guyette  
Michael O. Hanlon, Jr.  
Walter Rice Hard, Jr.  
\*James Harned  
Harold J. Harrington, Jr.  
Andrew S. Harrington  
John Hayes  
Wayne Hazelton  
Marion L. Healey  
Mildred A. Healey  
Norman A. Hebert  
Merrill Hemenway  
Charlotte Hill  
Edgar F. Hill  
Richard J. Hill  
Kenneth H. Hilliard  
Philip Hitchcock  
William E. Hitchcock  
Percy L. Hodgins  
Charles Hosley  
David J. Hosley  
Hubert Hosley, Jr.  
Alan B. Howes  
Raymond Hulett  
William Hulett  
Harold E. Hunt  
Elmer Hutt  
Thomas P. Ineson  
William Johnson  
Robert Jordan  
John P. Jackson  
Howard Johnston  
Irving Jones  
David Jones  
Theodore Gibbs Kane  
Bertha R. Kelley  
Clarence Kelley  
Warren L. Keyes  
Arthur J. Kilburn  
Noel J. Kilburn  
Theodore R. Kilburn, Jr.  
Henry King  
Robert L. King  
Henry Koppen  
Frederick Koppen  
Alphonse Labounty  
James A. LaFlamme  
Alyr Lampron  
Raymond Lampron  
John M. Lang  
M. Betty Lang  
Richard E. Lang  
Robert O. Lassar  
Beatrice Latremore  
Albert R. Lawrence  
G. Frederick Lawrence  
Joseph J. Lawler  
William C. Leary

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Irving Jack Lee          | Arthur J. Pinsonault      |
| *Robert T. Lee, Jr.      | Donald B. Powers          |
| Robert J. Lincoln, Jr.   | Harold Prouty             |
| Minnie Lockwood          | Norman Prouty             |
| John Lombardy            | Ralph Prouty              |
| Louis Lombardy           | Raymond Prouty            |
| Charles Long, Jr.        | Theodore Prouty           |
| Raphael W. Longtin       | Frederick M. Reed         |
| A. A. Lorenzo            | Kenneth F. Reed           |
| Louis Lorenzo            | Merriman M. Reed          |
| Joseph F. D. Lynch       | Edward Reynolds           |
| Francis C. Lyon          | Frederick Reynolds        |
| James Lyon               | John Reynolds             |
| John Lyon                | Richard J. Riddell        |
| Edward McLaughlin        | Alfred E. Roberts         |
| Frederick McEckron       | Charles Roberts           |
| Raymond McEckron         | Clarence Roberts          |
| Warren Markey            | Norman Roberts            |
| John L. Marsh            | Harold E. Roberts         |
| Louis Martin, Jr.        | Thomas James Roberts, Jr. |
| Charles W. Mason, Jr.    | Francis F. Rogers         |
| Clyde E. Mattison        | Kenneth A. C. Scott       |
| Donald L. Mattison       | Frances Schlieder         |
| Robert W. Mattison       | Victor Schlieder          |
| Roland Mattison          | Eber Sessions             |
| Harold W. Messe          | Arthur Sessions           |
| Arthur P. Morgan         | Allen H. Shaw             |
| Richard S. Morgan        | Arthur H. Shewell         |
| Catherine Murchison      | Merrill Shewell           |
| Frank T. Mylott, Jr.     | Hugh Smith                |
| Leonard Nancy            | James Smith               |
| Clifford A. Nugent       | Lawrence Smith            |
| Edward H. O'Connell      | Richard Smith             |
| Franklin W. Orvis        | Thomas Smith, Jr.         |
| *Carlton B. Overton, Jr. | Thomes Smith              |
| Timothy M. Overton       | Claude W. Squires         |
| Richard W. Overton       | *Harold Squires           |
| John Paddock             | Morris Squires            |
| Henry J. Park            | Norman Squires            |
| Norma Parris             | Earl C. Standish          |
| Jacques Patroni          | George Talomius           |
| George C. Payne, Jr.     | Donald S. Taylor          |
| Alice J. Perry           | Elphege W. Tetreault      |
| Henry E. Perry, Jr.      | Howard C. Thompson        |
| Howard H. Perry          | Frank L. Thompson         |
| John T. Perry            | Harry Torrey              |
| John T. Perry, Jr.       | Robert G. Turner, Jr.     |
| Bror Pierson             | Bryce Tuttle              |
| Harold Pierson           | G. Morton Tuttle          |

Neal W. Tuttle  
 William VanIngen  
 W. Clement Viault  
 Augustus B. Wadsworth, Jr.  
 Eugene D. Wadsworth  
 Herbert J. Walker, Jr.  
 Z. Franklin Wasco  
 Alvin Waters  
 Chester G. Waters  
 Harold Waters  
 John H. West  
 Myron H. West  
 Daniel Wideawake

James B. Wilbur  
 Lawrence B. Wilcox  
 James Williams  
 Howard Wilson  
 James L. Wiley  
 John F. Wiley  
 Henry Wolff  
 Thomas J. Wood  
 Charles C. Wright  
 Corliss H. Wright  
 John J. Wright  
 Neal F. Wyman  
 Fabio Zandi

MEN FROM MANCHESTER IN THE SERVICE  
 DURING THE KOREAN WAR

AN HONOR ROLL IN THE "MANCHESTER JOURNAL,"  
 JANUARY 3, 1952

John Alden  
 Louis Andrews  
 Jesse Ameden  
 R. Keith Ameden  
 Byron Avery  
 Jack Bell  
 F. H. Benson  
 Roger Bolster  
 Christopher Bowen  
 Clarence Brayson  
 Robert F. Brooks  
 Larry W. Bryant  
 Francis Bush  
 Paul E. Cadoret  
 Warren Cadoret, Jr.  
 Joseph A. Charbonneau  
 Neal Clayton  
 John Costello  
 William Derosia  
 Francis Dupree  
 Warren Eaton  
 Jack Elwell  
 Edward Farnum  
 Durwood Fisher  
 Reid Fleming

Robert E. Gangloff  
 Marcel Gervais  
 David J. Goodwillie  
 C. Bruce Graham  
 Robert Harrington  
 Ira Hartwell, Jr.  
 Jack Harwood  
 Kenneth R. Hitchcock  
 John Hodgins  
 Paul Hottin  
 R. Gordon Hurley  
 Charles A. Jackson  
 Robert L. Jackson  
 Albert F. Kent  
 Joe Kilburn  
 Noel J. Kilburn  
 Edwin C. Kinney  
 Larry Knapp  
 Vernon King  
 Joseph Lawler  
 Charles J. Long  
 Frederick Lyon  
 James R. McCooey, Jr.  
 James P. McLean  
 Robert V. Mylott



John Paul  
William J. Powers  
John H. Reynolds  
David Robertson  
Donald Ross  
Paul Secoy  
Douglas Shaw

Jerome Stannard  
E. Lee Taylor  
Gerald Taylor  
William Thompson, Jr.  
Kenneth Wilbur  
Clarence J. Wyman  
Frederick D. Wyman

## GROWTH IN MANCHESTER'S POPULATION

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 1791 | 1276 |
| 1800 | 1397 |
| 1810 | 1502 |
| 1820 | 1508 |
| 1830 | 1525 |
| 1840 | 1590 |
| 1850 | 1782 |
| 1860 | 1688 |
| 1870 | 1897 |
| 1880 | 1928 |
| 1890 | 1907 |
| 1900 | 1955 |
| 1910 | 2044 |
| 1920 | 2057 |
| 1930 | 2004 |
| 1940 | 2139 |
| 1950 | 2425 |
| 1960 | 2469 |

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A red bound volume (A) containing the Charter and names of the Grantees to whom Governor Benning Wentworth granted the town of Manchester and also the meeting records of the Amenia, New York, Proprietors to whom the original Grantees sold their rights can be found at the town clerk's office, Manchester Village. A second volume (B), a Proprietors' record book, contains mostly land transactions and surveys. A third volume of Proprietors' records is missing, but judging from its table of contents (which is available), it contained land surveys.

Volume 1, Land Records, contains town meeting records, 1771-1789; Volume 2 has no town meeting records; Volume 3 has town meeting records, 1790-1795; Volume 4 contains no town meeting records; Volume 5 records 1796-1802; Volume 6, 1804-1806; Volume 7, 1806-1812 inclusive; Volume 8, 1813-1818 inclusive; Volume 9, 1819-1824 inclusive; Volume 10, 1824-1829 inclusive plus three special meetings; Volume 11, 1830-1833 inclusive.

Beginning with the 1833 town meeting, minutes are included in a ledger labeled "Town Records" and Volume 1 contains the meetings 1834-1919 inclusive; Volume 2, 1920-1951; Volume 3, 1951 to date. These volumes also contain records of all elections, officers sworn, etc.

Bound volumes of Town Reports begin 1888, but do not contain minutes of the meetings until 1915. Unfortunately there are no narrative accounts of the accomplishments of town officers until the beginning of the town manager system in 1941.

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# INDEX

- Adams Hall, 59, 60, 71, 76, 123, 182, 187, 192, 212, 236
- Adams, Harry L., 60, 76, 104, 164, 212, 235, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255
- Adventists, 55
- agriculture, xi, 191
- Aiken, John, 81, 115, 181
- airports, 97-99, 208, 242-243
- Allen, Ethan, 13, 49, 139, 282
- Allen, Ira, 13, 14, 285
- Allis Tavern, 209, 245
- altitude, 1
- Amenia, New York, xiii, 4, 5, 6, 17, 270, 302
- American Legion, 140, 143, 238
- American Red Cross, 130, 132, 133, 135, 143, 166, 189, 237
- American Youth Hostel, 240
- Ames, George L. (Dr.), 128, 167, 182
- Ames, Robert, 158, 164, 236, 239
- Anderson, Clarissa, 45, 47
- Anderson, Estelle, 118
- Anderson, James (Rev.), 44, 45, 47, 48, 79, 81, 124, 144, 176, 181, 274
- Anderson, Robert L., 253, 256, 295
- Arcade Theater, 187
- Archibald, Frank C., 236, 274-275
- Arkell, Bartlett, 107, 135, 197, 202, 217, 218, 239, 242, 264
- Arkell, Louise, 218, 262, 265, 266
- Arlington, 49, 50, 56, 57, 59, 74, 80, 91, 93, 121, 127, 133, 142, 170, 232, 240, 241
- Armistice Day, 131, 143
- art galleries, 262-268
- artists, 262-268
- athletic clubs, 188, 241-242
- Australian ballot, 36
- aviation, 97-99
- banks, 157-159; Battenkill, 157, 158; Factory Point National, 158, 159, 213
- Baptist Church, 27, 38-43, 55, 136, 140, 277; earliest pastor, 38; pastors, 42; meeting house, 38, 39, 40, 41, 64
- Barney, Mason S. (Dr.), 137, 138, 171
- Barnumville, 3, 19, 22, 23, 59, 76, 88, 102, 107, 110, 111, 146, 147, 151, 187, 212, 222
- Bartlett, I. N., 132, 237, 240, 248, 249
- basketball, 188
- Bates, Madison C., 87, 257
- Battenkill, 2, 21, 22, 28, 91, 94, 97, 107, 108, 112, 148, 150, 188, 189, 193, 205, 239, 248
- Battenkill Inn, 212, 240, 253
- Battenkill Valley Industrial Society, 169, 178, 192-196
- Baum, Colonel, 15
- Beardsley, Daniel, 5, 7
- Bear Mountain, 3, 64
- Beartown, 3, 19, 23, 64, 67, 200
- Beattie, Orrin H., 133, 238, 297
- Beckwith, Mary Lincoln, 99, 280
- Bennett, Alice E., 10, 275
- Bennett, Ethel, 179, 184, 234, 237, 246
- Bennett, G. S., 179, 223, 235, 238, 295
- Bennett, Otto, 100, 178, 179, 240, 275
- Bennington, 12, 14, 16, 41, 57, 58, 74, 90, 93, 97, 130, 132, 138, 173, 185, 191, 192, 202, 233, 235, 245, 262
- Bennington and Rutland Railroad, 90, 91, 92, 276, 277
- Bennington Banner*, 176, 177, 178, 258, 260
- Bennington, Battle of, 14, 15, 142
- Bennington County, 12, 111, 119, 120, 123, 170, 212, 239, 248, 249
- Bennington County Agricultural Society, 191
- Bennington County Co-operative Creamery, 145
- Bennington County Improvement Association, 116, 196, 201, 239
- Bennington County Medical Society, 168, 170, 171, 172
- Bennington County Whig*, 173
- Bicentennial, 144
- Big Bromley, 226, 228, 229, 230-231
- Bigelow, Edwin L., 74, 240
- Bigelow, Helen B., 10, 118, 184, 234, 246, 249

- Black, Peter (Capt.), 203, 210, 275, 291  
 Black Tavern, 30, 203  
 Black, William P., 10, 157, 158, 251, 252, 275, 290  
 Blackaller, Henry (Rev.), 54, 73  
 Blackmer, J. C., 102, 112, 161, 187, 293  
 Blackmer, Mrs. J. C., 232, 246  
 Board of Trade, 23, 187, 201, 221  
 bobsledding, 222, 225, 226  
 bodies of water, 2  
 Bondville, 88, 184, 229, 253, 255  
 Boorn (Bourn), Barney, 21  
 Boorn (Bourn), Jesse, 30, 31  
 Boorn (Bourn) murder, 29, 30, 31, 44, 278, 283, 284  
 Boorn (Bourn), Nathaniel, 21, 39, 291  
 Boorn (Bourn), Stephen, 29, 30, 31  
 Boudinot, Delight Sargeant, 78, 128  
 boundaries, 1, 5  
 Bourn, Lynford, 104, 233, 297  
 Bourn Brook, 2, 21, 22, 146, 205  
 Bourn Pond, 3, 92, 111, 190, 240  
 Bowen, Andrus L. (Si Clone), 59, 91, 92, 122, 143, 179, 180, 199, 252  
 Boy Scouts of America, 135, 238  
 Brewster, Robert C., 132, 134, 136, 188, 235, 238, 249  
 Breyman, Colonel, 15  
 Brick Tavern, 88, 212  
 bridges, 20-22  
 Bromley Ski Club, 231, 242  
 Bronson, Abraham (Rev.), 49, 50, 54  
 Brooks Tavern, 212  
 Brown, W. A. (Dr.), 200  
 Bryant, Clyde, 133, 244  
 Bulkley, Benjamin, 196  
 Bulkley, David L., 240, 253, 264  
 Bull, Thomas (Capt.), 7, 16, 39, 291  
 Bullhead Pond, 2  
 Bullock, Paul H., 84  
 Bundy, Henry, 71, 163, 190, 211, 241, 252  
 Burgoyne, General, 13, 14, 15  
 Burnham, Samuel, 123, 125, 293  
 Burnham, William A., 73, 78, 82, 83, 86, 275  
 Burr, Joseph, 10, 80, 81, 115, 116, 272, 275-276, 282  
 Burr and Burton Seminary, 44, 46, 70, 78, 79, 80-87, 105, 108, 131, 132, 133, 169, 183, 185, 188, 190, 194, 202, 212, 223, 227, 234, 237, 241, 243, 247, 248, 249, 255, 257, 258, 261, 265, 276, 279, 281, 282, 285; first co-educational secondary school, 82; first principal, 82; first trustees, 81; headmasters, 86, 87; tuition, 70, 85  
 Burton, Elias B., 158, 276  
 Burton, Isaac (Capt.), (Deacon), 28, 29, 209, 251  
 Burton, Isaac (Sgt.), 125, 126, 293  
 Burton, Josiah, 18, 81, 82, 157, 181, 276, 281, 291, 292  
 Burton, Orlando, 124, 125, 293  
 Burton Pastoral Library, 181  
 Business and Professional Women, 47, 237  
 Business Girls Club, 237  
 Business Men's Association, 235  
 bus lines, 90  
 Button, R. (Dr.), 79, 167  
 Calahan, Luther (Dr.), 170, 295  
 Campbell, Claude (Dr.), 170, 212  
 Campbell, James B., 184, 212, 235, 297  
 Campbell, Pauline B., 130, 234  
 Campbellites, 55  
 Campfire Girls, 237  
 Canfield, Hermione, 236, 246  
 Canfield, Nathaniel, 254-255  
 Carlisle, Maynard, 99, 104  
 Carsden Inn and Garage, 97, 207, 225, 226  
 Castleton, 14, 120  
 Catholic Daughters of America, 58  
 Cecilian Club, 247  
 cemeteries, 5, 40, 63-66 (*see also names of*)  
 Center (*see Manchester Center*)  
 Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, 113  
 Central Vermont Railroad, 91  
 Chamberlain, Calvin (Rev.), 40, 42, 291  
 Chamber of Commerce, 155, 202, 226, 227-229, 242  
 Civic Club, 234  
 Civilian Defense, 9, 134, 135, 136, 137  
 Civil War, 122-129, 167, 252, 293-295  
 Clark, Augustus G., 65, 101, 161, 276  
 Clark, Myron, 81, 90, 157, 181, 276



- Classic Institute, 78  
 Cleghorn, Sarah N., 65, 85, 131, 141, 183, 236, 246, 257-258  
 Clemons, Seneca S. (Dr.), 168  
 Colburn, Mason S. (Col.), 59, 106, 129, 190, 239, 241, 276, 277  
 Colburn House, 90, 163, 187, 211, 229, 253  
 Coleman, Lyman (Rev.), 82, 86  
 Collins, Elijah, 20, 150  
 Colonial Light and Power Company, 112, 113  
 Colonial Theater, 61, 187  
 Columbus Club, 238  
 Colvin, Russell, 29, 30, 31  
 Community Chorus, 247  
 Community Club, 234  
 Community Theater, 187  
 Company c, 14th Regiment Vermont Volunteers, 127  
 Company E, 5th Regiment Vermont Volunteers, 124-126  
 Cone, S. G., 53, 65, 161, 182  
 Congregational Church, xii, 5, 28, 30, 43-48, 51, 127, 143, 144, 181, 290; organization, 43; brick church, 44; ministers, 47, 48, 274; present church, 46  
 Convention, Bennington, 271; Constitutional, 167, 282; Dorset, 15, 271; Westminster, 15, 16; Windsor, 16  
 conventions, Equinox House, 206  
 Cornell, Joseph (Rev.), 38, 39, 42, 49  
 Cortissoz, Royal, 263  
 Council of Censors, 167, 279, 282  
 Council (Committees) of Safety, 13, 203  
 Court House, xii, 1, 5, 30, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 56, 63, 89, 123, 126, 129, 131, 144, 154, 168, 185, 192, 195, 201, 209, 222, 236, 242, 278  
 courts, 12, 50, 175, 203, 279, 281, 282, 284  
 Crown Point, 13  
 Cub Scouts, 238  
 Cummings family, 125, 126, 294  
 Cushman, Rufus S. (Rev.), 46, 47, 48  
  
 Dam, Lake Madeleine, 113  
 D.A.R. (*see Ormsby Chapter*)  
 deer, 190, 191, 277  
 Dellwood Cemetery, 45, 63, 65, 66, 83, 140, 168, 206, 284, 290  
 Deming, Eliakim, 39, 291  
 Deming, Sylvester, 157, 239  
 Depot (*see Manchester Depot*)  
 Disciples Church, 55  
 Dorset (East Dorset, South Dorset), 1, 2, 3, 18, 19, 21, 22, 38, 39, 56, 57, 73, 74, 80, 88, 89, 90, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 109, 111, 112, 119, 121, 124, 127, 135, 142, 143, 150, 151, 158, 168, 179, 180, 192, 199, 200, 212, 223, 224, 226, 230, 233, 239, 245, 251, 253, 262  
 Dorset Convention, 15  
 Dorset Players, 269  
 Dudley, Charles P., 123, 125, 126, 294  
 Dufresne Pond and Dam, 2, 148, 149, 190  
 Dwight, Timothy, 28, 285  
 Dwyer, John (Rev.), 57  
 Dyer Quarry, 150-151  
  
 Eagles, 243  
 East Dorset (*see Dorset*)  
 East Manchester, 55, 76, 107, 135, 146, 246, 249, 263  
 Edson, Ezra (Dr.), 122, 142, 167, 213, 243  
 Eggleston, Hiram, 10, 57, 71, 104, 143, 190, 217, 252, 275  
 Ekwanok Country Club, 89, 110, 202, 214-220, 241  
 electricity, 112, 113; first light, 112; electric railroad, 89  
 Eliot, Henry W. (Dr.), 129, 170  
 Episcopal Church, 48-55, 136; organization, 48, 49; glebe, 49, 50; rectors, 54; St. John's chapel, 52-54; Zion, 49-54, 80  
 Equinox Company, 97, 155, 208, 219-220, 222, 225, 288  
 Equinox Flying Club, 99, 242-243  
 Equinox Guards, 124  
 Equinox House, 6, 12, 45, 58, 75, 91, 97, 98, 99, 143, 144, 165, 174, 185, 190, 196, 198, 199, 202-208, 209, 241, 248, 261, 262, 271, 280, 286, 288  
 Equinox Links Club, 208, 219-220, 224, 225  
 Equinox Mountain, 1, 2, 3, 19, 25, 49, 64, 89, 106, 113, 121, 124, 138, 150, 151,

- 189, 199, 201, 202, 205, 206, 222, 225, 240, 266  
 Equinox Pond, 2, 190, 199, 205, 208, 223, 239  
 Equinox Spring Water, 155, 199, 208, 288  
 Estabrook, Emerson, 186, 194, 213, 252  
 Estabrook's Opera House, 186, 194, 212-213  
 Factory Point (*see also Manchester Center*), xiv, 2, 3, 12, 22, 27, 40, 60, 78, 79, 88, 89, 105, 109, 111, 112, 121, 122, 123, 144, 152, 153, 158, 160-164, 165, 167, 168, 169, 181, 182, 186, 192, 199, 211, 239, 242, 243, 252, 260, 274, 276  
 Factory Point Cemetery, 40, 64-66, 123, 138, 140, 232  
 Factory Point, change of name, 162, 200  
 Fausett, Dean, 262, 265, 266  
*Favorite Flies*, 287  
 Felt, O. G., 32, 89, 252  
 Fenner, Phyllis, 260  
 finances (*see also taxes, banks*), 11, 33-37, 77, 95, 108, 115, 116, 117, 118, 127, 128, 155, 157-159  
 fire companies, 35, 103-105, 142, 211; Pacific, 103; Undine, 104  
 Fire Districts, 11, 103-106, 108  
 Fisher, Dorothy Canfield, 183, 247, 258  
*Fishing with the Fly*, 154  
 flood of 1927, 94  
 Fort Ticonderoga, 13, 14, 282  
 Forum club, 234  
 Four-H Clubs, 248-249  
 Fourth of July, 131, 142, 143, 252  
 Fowler, Harvey K. (elder), 109, 182, 243, 245, 277  
 Fowler, Harvey K. (younger), 135, 233, 235, 298  
 Fowler, J. W., 89, 90, 104, 106, 130  
 Fowler, Paul W., 130, 235, 238, 255, 256  
 Fox, Jack, 98  
 French, Jeremiah, 4, 6, 10, 17, 209  
 French, Joshua, 10, 21  
 French, Samuel, 8, 274  
 French, Thomas, 5  
 Fullerton, W. H., 138, 139, 150, 163, 213  
 Gaffney, Thomas J. (Rev.), 56  
 G.A.R., 138, 139, 140, 141, 232, 284; monument, 138, 139, 232  
 Garden Club, 133, 248  
 Giddings, Harold, 150, 196, 221  
 Girl Scouts of America, 238  
 Gleason, R. Burr, 277  
 Gleason Telephone Company, 111  
 Glebe Brook, 3, 39, 49  
 Glebe Swamp, 18, 49  
 glebelands, 49, 50  
 golf, 110, 214-220  
 Good Templars, 236  
 Goodwin, Matthew B., 109  
 Gould, William (Dr.), 167, 198  
 Graham, Berniece, 179, 240, 260  
 Graham, Clifford, 65, 133, 226, 238, 240  
 Graham, D. Cunningham (Rev.), 48, 238  
 grand list, origin of, 33; growth of, 35, 36  
 Grange, 244  
 Granville, New York, 88, 89, 95  
 Graves, A. L., 130, 163, 182  
 Graves, Germont (Rev.), 52, 54  
 Gray, A. J., 158, 204  
 Greenberg, Samuel, 61, 62  
 Green Mountain Boys, 13  
 Green Mountain Boys Association, 240-241  
 Green Mountain Club, 197, 239-240  
 Green Mountain Flyer, 92, 94  
 Green Mountain Girls Association, 241  
 Green Mountain Marble Company, 97  
 Green Mountain National Forest, 146  
 Green Mountains, 1, 2, 3, 107, 146, 148  
 Griffith, Edward (Judge), 130, 234, 235, 264, 277  
 Griffith, Jennie S., 118, 234  
 Griffith, William A., 10, 242  
 Ground Observer Corps, 134, 135, 136, 137  
 "Handy Andy," 153  
 Hard, Jesse N., 104, 109, 110, 161, 163, 182, 258  
 Hard, Margaret S., 12, 234, 237, 259, 289  
 Hard, Ruth, 259  
 Hard, Walter R., xiv, 131, 132, 141, 163, 175, 179, 183, 184, 187, 188, 228, 231, 235, 238, 258-259, 264, 265  
 Hard, Walter R., Jr., 132, 259, 298

- Harlem Extension Railroad, 91  
 Harned, James B., Jr., 135, 233, 298  
 Harned-Fowler Post, V.F.W., 141, 190, 233  
 Harrington, Harrison, 251, 256  
 Harrington, Moses, 101, 121, 142  
 Hawkins, Charles, 99, 235  
 Hawley, Charles H., 277  
 Hawley, Eli J., 182, 236  
 Hawley, Jessie, 236, 257  
 Hawley, Julia F., 236, 246, 247  
 Hawley, Major Jabez, 20, 50, 123, 157, 158, 293  
 Hawley, Wilhelmina, 236, 247  
 Hayes Field, 99  
 Haynes, Lemuel (Rev.), 44, 48, 278  
 haywards, 8  
 Healey, Thomas J., 164, 235, 278  
 Heinel, Fred P., 133, 137, 233, 239  
 Hemenway, Clara May, 10, 153  
 Hemenway, Edward H., 111, 278  
 Hemenway, Lewis E. (Dr.), 166, 183, 278  
 Hemenway, Lewis H. (Dr.), 84, 166, 169, 241, 278, 294  
 Hicks, A. J., 279  
 Hicks, A. M., 221, 235, 238  
 Hicksville, 3, 22, 107  
 highways (*see also roads*), xii, 5, 17, 36  
 highway districts, 20, 21, 22  
 Highway, Ethan Allen, 24  
 highway rate bill, 20, 21  
 Highway, Seth Warner Memorial, 24, 233  
 "Hildene," 207, 280  
 Hillside Golf Club, 214  
 Historical Society, 50, 131, 141, 236-237  
 hobby clubs, 249  
 Hollister, Josiah Burton, 122, 139, 161, 279  
 Holy Name Society, 58  
 Home Demonstration groups, 249  
 honor rolls, 130, 135  
*Horn of the Green Mountains*, 173  
 hotels (*see also names of inns, taverns, hotels*), 201, 202-213  
 Howe, General, 13  
 Howes, Ralph E., 235, 247  
 Hoyt, Frances and Grace, 261  
 Hoyt, Russel P., 251, 252, 261  
 Hubbardton, 13, 14  
 Hulbert, E. B. (Rev.), 42  
 hunting and fishing, 189-191  
 Hurlburt, Henry, 46  
 Hurley, Roger B., 179, 188  
 Ianni, Napoleon, 223, 253, 254, 255  
 Indian burial ground, 64  
 industries, 145-156  
 Ineson, Stanley B., 135, 184, 216  
 inns and taverns (*see names of*)  
 Ira Hill Academy, 77, 78  
 iron mining, 152  
 Isham, Charles, 210  
 Isham, Edward S., 46, 84, 112, 182, 183, 201, 214, 215, 279, 280  
 Isham, Edward S., Jr., 279  
 Isham, Ezra (Dr.), 167, 279  
 Isham, Lincoln, 264, 280  
 Isham, Pierpont, 46, 279  
 Israel Congregation, 61, 62  
 Jackson, William (Dr.), 80, 81  
 Jacobs, Leonebel, 268  
 Jamaica, 88  
 Jameson, Smith, 141, 253, 294  
 Jewell, Edward Alden, 263  
 Johns, Benjamin, 6  
 Kamber, Nahum, 61, 62  
 Kamenetzky, Noah, 62  
 Kent-Root Marble Quarry, 97, 111  
 kilns, 147  
 Knothe, Alex, 211, 235  
 Knothe, Margaret, 136, 211, 242  
 Korean War, 136, 300-301  
 Lake Champlain, 13  
 Lake, John P., 169, 197  
 Lawrence, George F., 279-280  
 League of Women Voters, 234  
 Lebanon Springs Railroad, 90  
 Legion of Guardsmen, 233  
 libraries, 181-184  
 Lillie, John, 262, 263, 266, 268  
 Lincoln, Abraham, 126, 144, 206, 276, 280  
 Lincoln, Benjamin, 14  
 Lincoln, Mary Harlan, 84, 216, 280  
 Lincoln, Mary Todd, 144, 206, 280  
 Lincoln, Robert Todd, 84, 170, 201, 206,



- 207, 210, 216, 279, 280  
 Lincoln Cup, 216  
 Lions Club, 235, 249  
 lists, duties of, 9, 34  
 Littlefield, Elijah (Dr.), 167, 293  
 Lockwood, Joseph, 7  
 Long Trail, 45, 240  
 Lorenz, Franz, 261  
 Lovejoy, James L. (Dr.), 170, 253  
 Loyalty Day, 36, 141, 233  
 Lucioni, Luigi, 218, 266, 267  
 Lugene, Henry, 241  
 Lugene, Lewis, 9  
 lumber industry, xi, 2, 145-149  
 Lye Brook, 2, 22, 92, 146, 148, 152, 190, 205  
  
 "Macnaughtan's," 211  
 Malone, Mary M., 12, 58, 100  
 Manchester, altitude of, 1; area of, 1; boundaries of, 1, 5; charter of, 4, 17, 302; charter proposed, 11; drainage of, 2; early life, 25-31; fire districts, 11, 103-106, 108; first house, 25; first male birth, 25; first meeting house, 5, 6, 26, 30; glebe lots, 5, 49, 50; Grantees of, xiii, 4, 5, 302; half-shire town, 12; name of, 4; natural resources of, xi, 2, 3, 145; organized, 6; population of, 301; post offices and postmasters, 100-102; Proprietors, xiii, 4-6, 17, 33, 63, 173, 270-274, 302; Proprietors' lots, 4, 5; subdivisions of, 3; survey bill of, 4, 5; taxes of, 9, 11, 23, 115, 155; topography of, 2; town clerks of, 9, 10; town managers of, 10; town meetings of, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 20, 21, 23, 36, 50, 68, 70, 105, 108, 114, 115, 116, 127, 131, 140, 141; town officers (*see also names of*), 6, 7, 8, 9, 11; town records, 6, 9, 11, 12, 66, 70, 73, 114, 115, 272, 273, 302; town reports, 74, 134, 185, 297, 302  
 Manchester Agricultural Library Association, 181  
 Manchester Band, 35, 132, 135, 141, 143, 170, 188, 221, 223, 251-256  
 Manchester Center (*see also Factory Point*), 1, 2, 9, 11, 23, 24, 59, 61, 76, 102, 103, 107, 111, 116, 132, 135, 146, 149, 150, 171, 172, 175, 179, 182, 184, 200, 211-213, 221, 238, 239, 246, 248, 253, 268  
 Manchester Center High School, 85  
 Manchester Depot, 3, 11, 21, 23, 61, 76, 89, 92, 94, 95, 97, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 113, 116, 124, 131, 132, 138, 139, 147, 149, 150, 151, 153, 160-164, 170, 179, 184, 189, 190, 191, 212, 221, 226, 244, 246, 248, 249, 250, 252, 253  
 Manchester Depot Sewer Company, 107, 108  
 Manchester Development Association, 200, 201  
 Manchester District Nursing Association, 35, 116, 166  
 Manchester, Dorset, and Granville Railroad, 22, 94-97  
 Manchester Emergency Unit, 137  
 Manchester Fair, 137, 191-197, 236, 248, 253  
 Manchester Fair Grounds, 24, 97, 143, 193-197, 202, 239, 242  
 Manchester Fire Company, 104  
*Manchester Journal*, 19, 21, 22, 23, 46, 56, 59, 65, 74, 88, 89, 91, 93, 95, 98, 105, 109, 112, 117, 122, 124, 125, 127, 131, 132, 142, 144, 147, 150, 152, 160, 169, 173-179, 181, 196, 199, 205, 207, 222, 224, 236, 241, 252, 259, 260, 264, 275, 280, 283, 286  
 Manchester Light and Power Company, 112, 113  
 Manchester Village, xii, 1, 3, 9, 11, 12, 22, 24, 26, 27, 45, 52, 65, 76, 78, 79, 83, 89, 98, 100, 101, 103-106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 116, 121, 123, 130, 131, 132, 135, 138, 139, 142, 143, 144, 150, 153, 154, 155, 160-164, 167, 168, 169, 170, 172, 179, 198-211, 214, 234, 238, 246, 248, 253, 273, 285-288  
 Manchester Water Company, 106, 107  
 Manchester Water-Cure, 165-166, 209  
 Manchester Welfare and Nursing Association, 74, 80, 117, 118, 237, 241  
 Manley, Mark, 109, 112, 164  
 marble, 3, 18, 95-97, 150-151  
 marble sidewalks, 198-199  
 Marbleville, 3

- Marbury, John Morton, 180, 183  
 Marbury, Mary Ellen (Orvis), 154, 210, 287  
 Mark Skinner Library, 134, 144, 182-184, 224, 237, 284  
 Marsden, Arthur, 107  
 Marsden, Howard, 107  
 Marsden, John, 106, 107, 112  
 Marsh, James (Dr.), 168  
 Marsh, William, 5, 6, 203  
 Marsh Tavern, 6, 12, 203, 271  
 Martin, Andrew E., 207, 208, 280  
 Masonic order, 42, 209, 244-245, 285  
 McCoy, Dorothy, 268  
 McCoy, Lawrence, 208  
 McKinley, William (Pres.), 144  
 McNaughton, James E., 59, 110, 147, 151, 187, 246  
 M. D. & G. Railroad, 22, 94-97  
 Mead, Martin, 211  
 Mead, Stephen, 6  
 Mead, Timothy, 4, 12, 20, 21, 27, 29, 39, 40, 146, 165, 274  
 Mead, Truman, 27, 292  
 Meeting House Hill, 40, 64  
 Memorial Day, 36, 140, 141, 253  
 merchants, 160-164  
 Methodist Church, 58-61, 268; pastors, 61  
 Mettawee Railroad, 93  
 Mexican War, 122  
 Miner, Ahiman L., 50, 129, 144, 158, 173, 252, 276, 281  
 Miner, A. Louis, 281  
 Miner, George, 53, 281  
 Miner, Henry E., 122, 175  
 Miner, Susan, 40, 51, 53, 78, 101, 182, 281  
 Ministerial Association, 223, 235  
 Modern Theater, 187  
 Monday Club, 247  
 Moses, Grandma, 265-266  
 Mount Laurel School, 80, 248  
 Munson, Benjamin, 120, 121, 293  
 Munson, Cyrus, 81, 129  
 Munson, Jared, 18, 209, 272  
 Munson, Josiah B., 122, 127, 251, 294  
 Munson, Loveland, 10, 13, 26, 46, 84, 176, 182, 183, 201, 214, 239, 241, 251, 276, 281  
 Munson, Mary (Campbell), 45, 46, 47, 84, 116, 183, 247, 281-282  
 Munson, Thaddeus, 203, 291  
 Munson's Falls, 18, 27, 39, 150  
 Munson's Tavern, 203  
 Music Hall, 46, 78, 140, 141, 155, 185, 186, 187, 205, 207, 261, 286  
 musicians, 260-262  
 National Guard, 133, 138  
 New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, 111  
 New Hampshire Grants, 16, 17, 49, 271; jurisdictional disputes, xi, 6, 7, 15, 27, 244  
 newspapers (*see also names of*), 173-180  
 Nine Partners, New York (*see also Amenia*), 4  
 Norcross-West Marble Company, 21, 95, 96, 151  
 North Bennington, 74, 90  
 "Northern Direct," 196  
 Odd Fellows, 243, 284  
 Old Folks parties, 187  
 "Old Homestead," 63, 282  
 Ondawa baseball team, 241  
 Ondawa camp, 248, 249  
 Ondawa Club, 205, 238  
 Ondawa Fish and Game Club, 182, 239  
 Opera House (Union), 61, 140, 186, 213, 235, 246, 261  
 Orchard Park Hotel (*see also Worthy Inn*), 211  
 Ormsby, Gideon (Major), xiii, 4, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 27, 28, 120, 270, 272, 273-274, 291  
 Ormsby, Mercy, 28, 43  
 Ormsby Chapter, D.A.R., 24, 232-233  
 "Ormsby Hill," 112, 215, 273, 279  
 Ortlieb, John, 210, 211, 229, 231  
 Orvis, Albert C., 154  
 Orvis, Anna Louise Simonds, 97, 98, 143, 208, 210, 219, 222, 231, 264, 283, 287-288  
 Orvis, Charles F., 89, 90, 100, 104, 126, 154, 168, 180, 182, 185, 209, 210, 287, 289  
 Orvis, Edward C., 106, 109, 194, 206, 219,

- 286, 287  
 Orvis, Electa (Purdy), 50, 52, 209, 286  
 Orvis, Franklin H., 45, 46, 75, 91, 130, 139, 154, 174, 177, 182, 187, 199, 204, 205, 206, 209, 215, 219, 286-287  
 Orvis, George, 143, 206, 207, 208, 214, 215, 216, 219, 286, 288  
 Orvis, Levi Church, 77, 100, 101, 198, 204, 285-286  
 Orvis, Levi C., Jr., 109, 125, 162, 241  
 Orvis, Louis, 183, 286  
 Orvis, Paul, 109, 201, 286  
 Orvis, Robert J., 100, 154, 210, 222  
 Orvis, William F., 112, 200, 206, 286  
 Orvis Company, Charles F., 153, 154, 190, 287  
 Orvis Cup, 220  
 Orvis family, 219, 285-289  
 Orvis Inn, 168, 210, 287  
 Osborn, Frank C., 84, 266  
 Ouimet, Francis, 218, 219  
 Outing Club, 222, 223, 242  
 Out-of-Door School, 79  
 overseer of the poor, 116  
 Overton, Richard C. (Dr.), 184, 260  
 ox, famous, 195
- Pabst, Fred, Jr., 222, 224, 226, 227, 228, 230, 231  
 Pabst, Sally (Litchfield), 228, 230, 231, 238  
 Pacific Engine Company, 103  
 Pacific Fire Company, 103  
 Pacific Hose Company, 103  
 Page, Elizabeth, 78, 210, 259-260, 285  
 Page, John (Dr.), 167, 291  
 Page, John F. (Dr.), 169, 195, 236, 244  
 Palmer, Icy, 290  
 Parent-Teacher Association (*see schools*)  
 Pathmasters, 20  
 Pawlet, 74, 88, 121, 158, 186, 241, 282  
 Pearson, Helen (Perkins), 221, 249  
 Perkins, Nathan (Rev.), 28  
 Peru (Bromley), 14, 45, 88, 110, 190, 192, 199, 223  
 Peru Turnpike, 19, 88, 147, 212  
 Pettibone, Albert W., Jr., 282  
 Pettibone, Alvin, 109  
 Pettibone, John S. (Judge), 10, 28, 29, 41, 73, 120, 167, 192, 245, 282, 293  
 Pettibone, Samuel, 28, 282, 291  
 Pettibone, W. B., 84, 108, 282  
 physicians, 165-172, 278  
 Pierce, Charles A., 127, 174, 175, 176, 294  
 Pierce, L. E. (Dr.), 170, 172, 235, 253  
 Pierpont Tavern, 210  
 "Pill Alley," 165, 169  
*Pin Peddler, The*, 142  
 Playhouse Theater, 187  
 Poetry Society of Southern Vermont, 257  
 poor farm, 115, 116  
 population, 301  
 post offices and postmasters, 100-102  
 Powel, Martin, xiii, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 26, 29, 203, 270-272, 291  
 Powers, Mary S., 262, 263  
 Proprietors (*see Manchester*)  
 Purdy, Benjamin, 6, 17, 64, 291  
 Purdy, Daniel, 25, 291, 292  
 Purdy, Samuel, 21, 25, 245  
 Purdy, Truman, 50, 165, 209  
 Purdyville (Hill), 3, 64, 151, 152, 154
- railroads (*see also names of*), 90-97, 225  
 Rangers, 14  
 Rawlins, Harry, 214  
 recreation, xiii, 25, 153, 155, 185-197, 221-231; appropriations, 227-228; program, 189  
 Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad, 91  
 Revolutionary War, 7, 13-16, 167, 233, 291-292  
 Rich, Claude, 93, 184, 249  
 Rich Lumber Company, 3, 92, 93, 148  
 Rich Lumber Company Railroad, 92, 93, 148  
 Richardson family, 43, 291-292  
 Richville, 3, 23, 92, 107, 133, 151, 153  
 Riding and Trail Club, 240  
 Rittenhouse, Jessie, 257  
 roads (*see also highways*), 2, 13, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 233  
 road commissioners, 22, 23  
 Robbins, Mary Utley, 232, 234, 247  
 Roberts, Benjamin S., 101, 122, 292  
 Roberts, Christopher, 13, 26, 40, 245, 282, 292



- Roberts, John, 5, 9, 10, 282, 292  
 Roberts, Martin, 3, 63, 88, 121, 142, 245, 282  
 Robertsville, 3, 88, 282  
 Robinson, Henry, 184, 210, 261  
 Rod and Gun Club, 197, 202, 239  
 Roman Catholicism, 56-58; St. Paul's Church, 57, 58, 144; pastors, 58  
 Roosevelt, Theodore (Pres.), 207  
 Rootville, 3, 22, 148  
 Rose, Samuel, 5, 25, 282  
 Rotary Club, 135, 188, 227, 234-235, 238, 255; swimming pool, 235  
 Rupert, 74, 88, 121, 127, 133, 192  
*Rutland Herald*, 179, 259, 264  
 Rutland Railroad, 90-92, 94, 95
- Sandgate, 1, 3, 59, 67, 74, 121, 128, 192, 200  
 Sargeant, Leonard (Lieut. Gov.), 30, 78, 100, 120, 128, 176, 209, 245, 282-283, 293  
 Savage's Station, Battle of, 125, 126  
 schools (*see also names of*), xii, 67-87; art instruction in, 267; band (*see Manchester Band*); buildings, 5, 45, 55, 67, 75-77; districts, 11, 36, 37, 67-76; lots, 5, 51, 68; medical inspection in, 74; Parent-Teacher Association, 74, 76, 80, 246, 255; private, 77-87; public, 67-77, 248; pupil enrollment, 74, 75; ski schools, 228, 229, 230; superintendents, town and union, 73, 74; taxes, 35, 68, 69, 70; teachers' salaries, 70; town district, 71; trustees, 68; union district, 73, 74  
 Schuyler, General, 14  
 sewer systems, 37, 107, 108; Manchester Depot, 108  
 sewage disposal plant, 37, 107, 108  
 Shaftsbury, 39, 74, 93  
 Shakespeare Club, 246  
 Shaw, Walter H., 283  
 Shephard (Shepherd), Walter (Col.), 100, 121, 204  
 Shippard, Daniel, 4, 5  
 Si Clone (*see Andrus L. Bowen*)  
 Simcox, Carroll (Rev.), 55, 260  
 Simonds, David Kendall, 10, 90, 100, 130, 139, 177, 178, 182, 192, 232, 236, 246, 283, 294  
 Sipprell, Clara, 269  
 skating, 221, 226  
 skiing, 2, 210, 211, 221-231, 242, 288  
 Skinner, Mark, 46, 65, 127, 178, 182, 232, 283  
 Skinner, Richard (Gov.), 28, 30, 44, 81, 119, 232, 273, 283, 284  
 Skinner Post, G.A.R. (*see G.A.R.*)  
 Ski Tows, Inc., 224, 226, 227, 231  
 Skyline Drive, 189, 202  
 Smalley, Francis, 135, 238  
 Smith, Albert, 238, 268  
 Smith, Egbert B., 23, 192  
 Smith, George, 89, 112, 200, 251, 252  
 Smith, Noah, 244, 245  
 snow trains, 94, 225, 226, 227  
 Snow Valley, Inc., 211, 228, 229-230  
 Snyder, Frances and Marcia, 84, 247  
 Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 236, 257  
 Society for Propagation of the Gospel, 5, 49, 50  
 Soldiers' Monument, 14, 138, 139, 143, 150, 232, 291  
 Sons of Veterans, 232, 277  
 Soper, Peletiah, 18, 292  
 Soper, Samuel, 8  
 Soper, Timothy, 64  
 Soper's Tavern, 27, 39  
 South Dorset (*see Dorset*)  
 Southern Vermont Art Center, 248, 261-262, 266-268  
 Southern Vermont Artists, 262, 263-268  
 Spanish-American War, 129, 295  
 Sperry, Anson, 50  
 Sperry, William, 10  
 Sports Car Club of America, 189  
 Sprague, L. H. (Dr.), 165, 166, 209  
 stage lines, 88-89, 282  
 Stark, John (Gen.), 13, 14, 15  
 St. Leger, Colonel, 13  
 Stockwell, John, 88, 89  
 Straight (Strait), A. B., 126, 209, 251, 294  
 Straight (Strait), Benjamin, 39  
 Straight (Strait), Samuel, 20, 21  
 Straight's Bridge, 20, 21  
 Straight's Tavern, 209  
 Sunderland, 1, 28, 73, 74, 92, 121, 127,

- 133, 142, 148, 192, 200, 202, 248, 249,  
251, 254  
survey bill, 4, 5  
Swain, A. M. (Rev.), 41, 42  
Swezey, Christopher, Sr., 135, 136, 235,  
242  
Swezey Lumber Company, 148, 149  
Swift, George, 104, 126, 169, 190, 251,  
252, 294  
Swift, Job (Rev.), 47  
Swift, Mildred, 84  
Swift, Seth (Rev.), 43, 47  
Swift, Theodore, 89, 90, 236, 251, 252,  
284  
Sykes, Clarence, 253
- Taconic Hotel, 204  
Taconic Marble Company (Dyer Quarry),  
151  
Taconic Mountains, 1  
Taconic Valley Railroad, 93  
Taft, William H. (Pres.), 207  
Tanner Brook, 154  
tannery, xi, 145, 152  
taxes, xii, 20, 21, 33-37, 128; rates, 34-36;  
exemptions, 155  
Taylor, Eber L., 111, 191, 192  
Taylor, Harold, 253, 255, 256  
Taylor, James L., 201, 214, 215, 216, 218  
telephone and telegraph, 108-112; first  
line, 111  
Thacher, George, 201, 215, 216  
Thayer's Hotel, 111, 167, 193, 211, 212,  
232  
theaters, 187  
Thompson, Lester H., 178, 179, 235, 244,  
284  
Thompson, Zadock, 51, 77  
Ticonderoga, 13, 14, 282  
Tories, 14, 25, 27, 209, 270, 282  
Towsley, George, 110, 200, 249  
Towsley, Leale, 86, 135, 265, 296  
Tracy, Elisha, 7  
Travis, Walter, 216, 219  
Troy and Boston Railroad, 90, 199  
Twentieth Century Club, 246
- Undine Fire Company, 104, 105  
Union Club, 186, 239  
Union Opera House (*see Opera House*)  
Union Street, 22, 46, 63, 91, 97, 150, 153,  
154, 155, 174, 175, 181, 199, 204, 207,  
214, 219, 224, 239  
Vail Light and Lumber Company, 113,  
148  
Vanderlip, John, 142, 211, 294  
Vanderlip, Martin, 154, 203  
Vanderlip Hotel, 45, 123, 129, 142, 165,  
175, 203, 204  
vendue, 114, 115  
Vermont, 166; fourteenth state, 16, 25;  
independent state, xi, 15, 16; legisla-  
ture, xi, 11, 16, 50, 68, 71, 72, 73, 77,  
89, 134, 203, 209, 210; militia, 121, 142,  
277, 282; republic of, 25, 271; sesqui-  
centennial of, 142  
*Vermont Advance*, 92, 180  
Vermont Artists Guild, 268  
Vermont Association, 39  
Vermont Children's Aid Society, 118, 237  
*Vermont Express*, 173  
*Vermont Gazette*, 173  
Vermont Hydro-Electric Corporation,  
113, 221  
Vermont Marble Company, 96, 113, 151,  
240  
*Vermont Odd Fellow*, 244, 284  
Vermont State Golf Association, 218  
Vermont Supreme Court, 279, 281, 282,  
284  
Vermont Symphony Orchestra, 261  
Vermont Transit Lines, 90  
Veterans of Foreign Wars (*see Harned-  
Fowler Post*)  
veterinarians, 169, 171  
Village (*see Manchester*)  
Village Chorus, 247
- Wait, Clark, 109, 110  
Wait, John D., 19, 150, 161  
Wanakena, New York, 93  
Warner, Seth, 13, 15, 142  
War of 1812, 7, 63, 119, 167, 293  
Washburn, Azel (Dr.), 167, 292  
Washburn, Stephen, 7, 292  
water supply, 2, 146  
Way's Lane, 18, 150

- Webster, Daniel, 50, 173, 281  
Wehrhane, Henry H., 108, 133  
welfare, 114-118  
Weller Tavern, 209  
Wells, Helmus, 65  
Wentworth, Benning (Gov.), xiii, 4, 6, 272, 302  
Western Union, 110, 111  
Western Vermont Railroad, 90, 199  
Westminster Convention, 15, 16  
Whalen, Cornelius, 8, 235  
Whelpley, Isaac, 39, 64, 292  
Whipple, Harris C., 285, 304  
Whipple, John H., 101, 110, 130, 163, 241, 252, 284-285  
Whipple Collection, 41, 60, 160, 162, 237, 292, 293, 304  
"White meeting house," 55  
Wickham, Emma, 46, 78, 128, 129  
Wickham, Joseph D. (Rev. Dr.), 46, 47, 83, 86, 108, 187, 200, 210, 295  
Wilbur, James B., 79, 211, 285  
Wilburton Inn, 211, 285  
Wilcox, Ellamae, 110, 137  
Wiley, Leon, 108, 164, 239  
Willing, Frances Skinner, 182-184, 284  
Willing, Mark Skinner, 183, 201, 217  
Windsor Mountain School, 79, 80, 211  
Winhall, 1, 19, 88, 127, 129, 148, 185, 192,  
Winter Sports Club, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 242  
woman suffrage, 11  
Women's Republican Club, 234  
World War I, 130, 131, 233, 295-296  
World War II, 132-136, 233, 297-300  
Worthy Inn, 211, 229  
Wyman, Edmond L. (Dr.), 50, 53, 123, 169













